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PARAM VIR CHAKRA

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Lance Naik Karam Singh

Writer: Sanjana Kapur **Artist:** Sundara Moorthy

Second Lieutenant Rama Raghoba Rane

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Writer: Anupam Arunachalam **Artist:** Ghanshyam Bochgeri

Major Dhan Singh Thapa

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Subedar Joginder Singh

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MAJOR SOMNATH SHARMA

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A LACK OF PATRIOTS IN OUR COUNTRY. THE INDIAN ARMED FORCES ARE FILLED WITH STIRRING STORIES OF COURAGEOUS MEN, WHO DISPLAYED UNQUESTIONING LOYALTY TO THE NATION. OUR FIRST STORY IS OF ONE SUCH INDIVIDUAL AND IT BEGINS IN THE EARLY 1930S WITH LITTLE SOM.



SOMNATH WAS FROM A FAMILY OF ARMY OFFICERS. HIS FATHER, AMAR NATH SHARMA, WENT ON TO BECOME A GENERAL IN THE ARMY.

*INDIAN CIVIL SERVICES

AT THE AGE OF TEN, SOMNATH'S PARENTS TOOK HIM TO MEET MAJOR GENERAL BRUCE HEY, THE DISTRICT COMMANDER OF LUCKNOW.



SOMNATH WAS HOPING TO GET INTO THE PRINCE OF WALES MILITARY COLLEGE* IN DEHRADUN.

*PRINCE OF WALES MILITARY COLLEGE WAS LATER RENAMED RASHTRIYA INDIAN MILITARY COLLEGE (R.I.M.C.).





AT THAT TIME, MAJOR SOMNATH SHARMA WAS PART OF THE 4 KUMAON BATTALION. HE WAS DELTA COMPANY'S COMMANDER.



EVEN THOUGH INDIA HAD JUST WON HER INDEPENDENCE, THINGS HAD NOT SETTLED IN THE COUNTRY.



THERE WAS UNREST IN KASHMIR. THE MAHARAJA OF KASHMIR, HARI SINGH, HAD NOT MADE HIS DECISION TO JOIN INDIA YET.



BUT WHEN PAKISTAN SENT 5,000 TRIBESMEN TO CAPTURE KASHMIR, THE MAHARAJA WAS FORCED TO FLEE. THE RAIDERS PLUNDERED AND LOOTED AS THEY ADVANCED.

INDIA IMMEDIATELY GAVE ORDERS TO WARD OFF THE RAIDERS. 4 KUMAON BATTALION WAS AMONG THE UNITS THAT WERE TO MOVE TO SRINAGAR.



4 KUMAON BATTALION HAS BEEN CALLED IN TO PROTECT THE SRINAGAR AIRSTRIP. DISPATCH ORDERS TO MAJOR SOMNATH SHARMA.

YES, SIR.

THE BATTALION HAD BEEN LOOKING AFTER INTERNAL SECURITY AT THE TIME. THE OTHER COMPANIES WERE DEPLOYED AT HISSAR, GURGAON AND ROHTAK AREAS.

I AM SORRY, SOMNATH, BUT YOU CANNOT GO WITH AN INJURY LIKE YOURS. I WILL GET THE ORDER REVERSED.

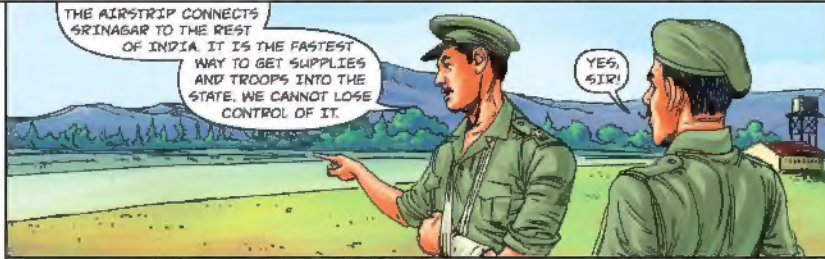


SIR, MY MEN KNOW THE WAY I FUNCTION AND I KNOW THEM. I MUST GO.

*SUB-UNIT OF A REGIMENT, CONSISTING OF 140-150 SOLDIERS

*A LEGAL DOCUMENT CREATED IN 1947 TO ENABLE EACH OF THE RULERS OF THE PRINCELY STATES TO JOIN ONE OF THE NEW NATIONS OF INDIA OR PAKISTAN

ON 31 OCTOBER, MAJOR SOMNATH SHARMA, ALONG WITH 70 MEN OF THE DELTA COMPANY, ARRIVED IN SRINAGAR.



ON 2 NOVEMBER, MAJOR SOMNATH'S COMPANY WAS JOINED BY COMPANY A (ALPHA), HEADED BY CAPTAIN H.S. BOLINA.



WE HAVE INFORMATION THAT THERE IS A LARGE GROUP OF RAIDERS MOVING IN OVER THESE HILLS.

THAT'S BADGAM VILLAGE. IT IS NEXT TO THE AIRBASE. AN ENEMY THERE WOULD BE A SERIOUS THREAT!

THE NEXT DAY, TWO COMPANIES HEADED BY MAJOR SOMNATH, ALONG WITH A COMPANY UNDER CAPTAIN RONNIE WOOD FROM 1 KUMAON, WERE SENT TO SURVEY BADGAM.



SEARCH THOROUGHLY. WE CAN'T LEAVE ANYTHING TO CHANCE.

AFTER A WHILE -



NOTHING SUSPICIOUS, SIR. ONLY SOME KASHMIRI REFUGEES HIDING IN THE NALA* OVER THERE.

1 KUMAON BATTALION WAS ORDERED TO RETURN TO THE BASE CAMP.

AT AROUND 1430 HRS. THE KASHMIRI REFUGEES STARTED LEAVING -

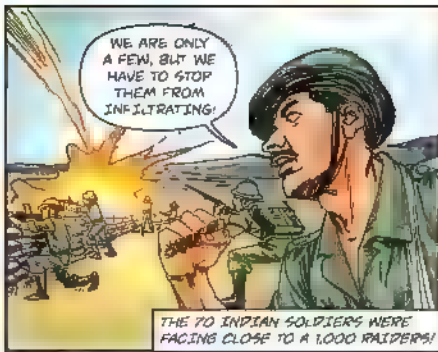


HEY! STOP! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

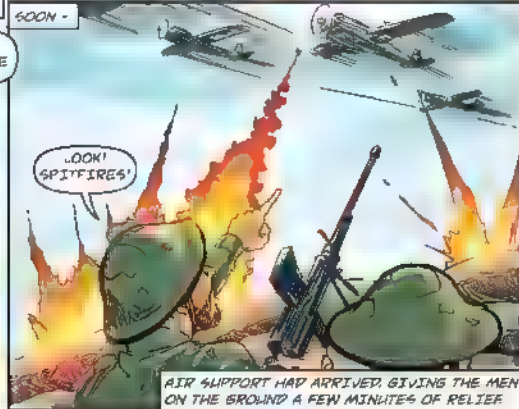
WE'RE JUST GOING HOME.

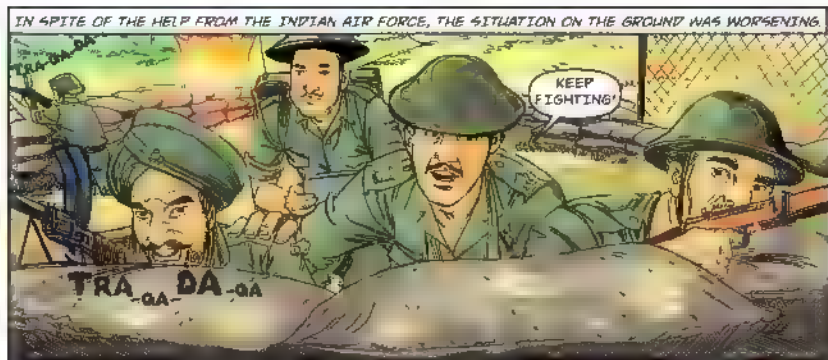
SUBEDAR, SEARCH THESE MEN.

*A STREAM OR A NARROW RIVER

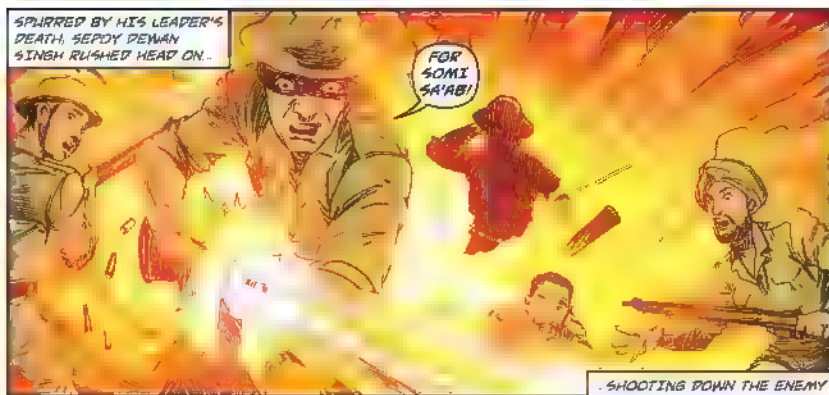
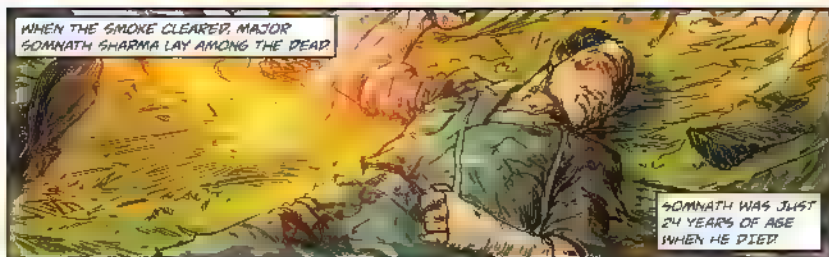
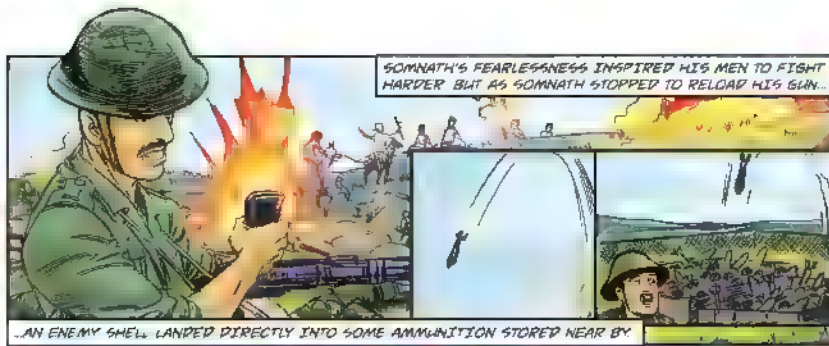


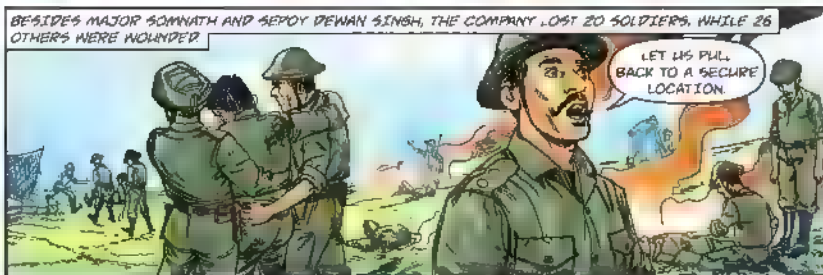
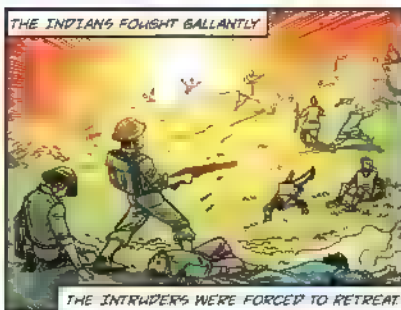
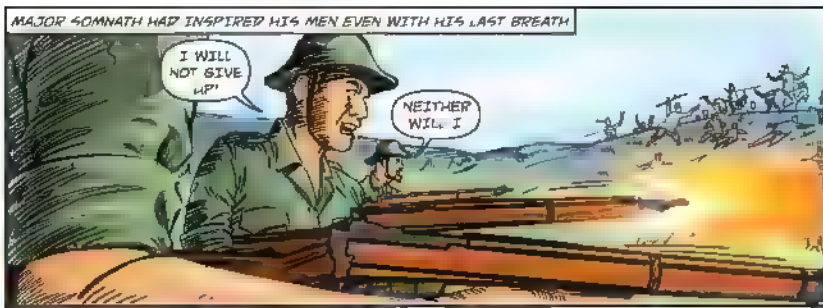
WITH FIGHTER PLANES ON THEIR WAY -





*A CHAMBER THAT CONTAINS BULLETS AND CAN BE LOADED INTO A GUN





*SEPOY DEWAN SINGH WAS AWARDED THE MAHAVIR CHAKRA FOR HIS ROLE IN THE BATTLE OF BADSAM.

THE BADLY WOUNDED ENEMY RETREATED INTO THE NEARBY HILLS WITHOUT MAKING ANY FURTHER ATTEMPTS AT CAPTURING THE AIRFIELD.

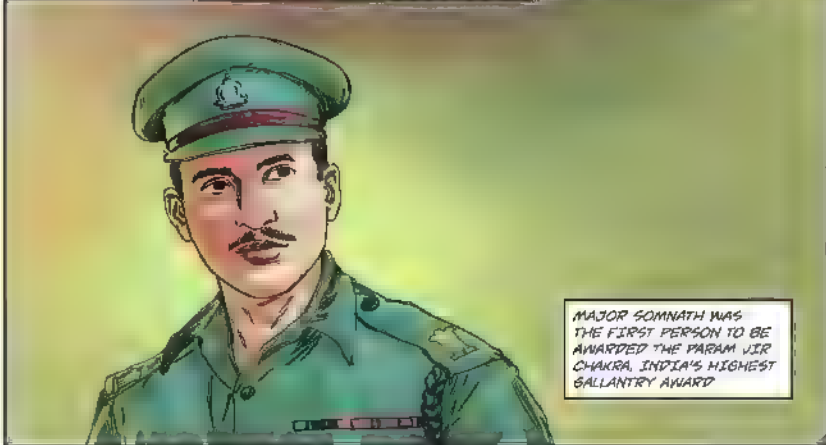


THE BATTLE AT BADGAM STRENGTHENED INDIA'S POSITION IN KASHMIR



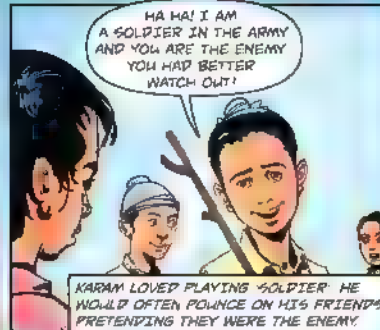
THE ENEMY
HAS BEEN
DEFEATED AND
THE AIRFIELD
IS NOW
SECURE

BY HOLDING THEIR GROUND, MAJOR SOMNATH SHARMA AND HIS BAND OF BRAVE MEN SECURED SRINAGAR AND PREVENTED PAKISTAN FROM TAKING OVER KASHMIR

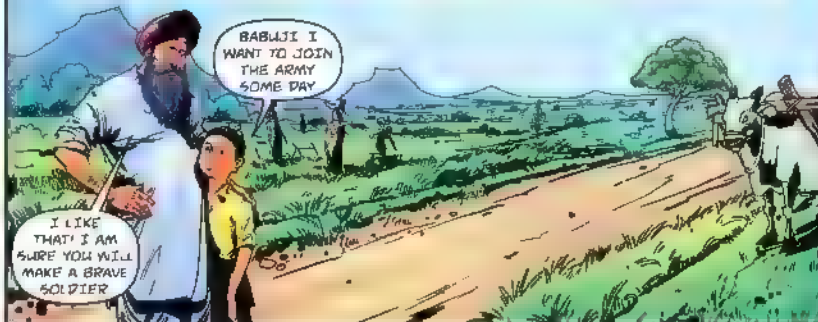


MAJOR SOMNATH WAS
THE FIRST PERSON TO BE
AWARDED THE PARAM VIR
CHAKRA, INDIA'S HIGHEST
GALLANTRY AWARD

LANCE NAIK KARAM SINGH



KARAM SINGH WAS THE SON OF A WEALTHY FARMER SARDAR UTTAM SINGH. HE GREW UP IN THE VILLAGE OF SENHA NEAR SANGRUR IN PUNJAB, LEARNING HOW TO PLOUGH AND SOW SEEDS.



KARAM WORKED TOWARDS HIS GOAL. ON 13 SEPTEMBER 1941, HE WAS INDUCTED INTO THE SIKH REGIMENT AT MEERUT CANTONMENT AS A SEPOY.



AND THEN POSTED TO 1 SIKH REGIMENT IN THE NORTH-EASTERN FRONTIER PROVINCE*

IN 1944, WHEN WORLD WAR II WAS AT ITS PEAK -



OUR UNIT HAS BEEN ORDERED TO THE WAR ZONE WE LEAVE TOMORROW MORNING

THE UNIT WAS HEADED TO THE INDO-BURMA BORDER



I HAVE NEVER SEEN SUCH GREENERY IN MY LIFE IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL

WE HAVE TO MOVE ON FOOT FROM THIS POINT MOVE AHEAD CAREFULLY, THE GROUND IS UNFAMILIAR AND DANGEROUS THESE JUNGLES ARE VERY THICK AND TREACHEROUS

*NOW ARUNACHAL PRADESH

THE PATH WAS INDEED FRAUGHT WITH DANGERS THAT THE SOLDIERS HAD NEVER ENCOUNTERED.



A GIANT SNAKE!



TWO BLOOD-SUCKING LEECHES FEASTING OFF ME!



WHAT IS THAT CREATURE?

NEVER SEEN A SCORPION BEFORE? JUST STAY AWAY IT IS LETHAL.



I HAVE NEVER SWEATED LIKE THIS!

YOU ARE RIGHT! DEALING WITH THE HUMIDITY IS WORSE THAN FACING THE ENEMY.

THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY, ALONG WITH THAI FORCES AND BURMESE INSURGENTS, HAD DRIVEN THE BRITISH FORCES OUT OF BURMA.



THE INDIAN SOLDIERS FOUGHT BRAVELY DESPITE MANY OF THEM BEING AFFECTED BY TROPICAL ILLMENTS LIKE MALARIA, DYSENTERY AND FEVER

KARAM SINGH PROVED HIS WORTH IN THE WAR



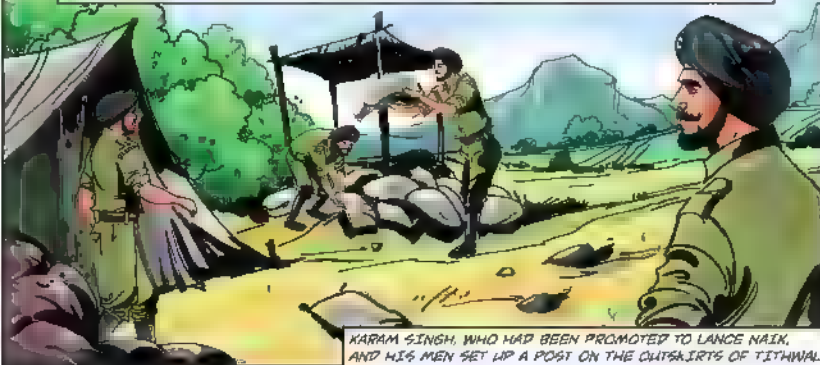
AND WAS AWARDED THE MILITARY MEDAL* FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION.

IN JANUARY, 1948, FOUR MONTHS AFTER INDIA HAD WON HER FREEDOM, PAKISTAN LAUNCHED AN ATTACK ON KASHMIR



HARI SINGH, THE MAHARAJA OF KASHMIR JOINED THE INDIAN UNION. INDIA IMMEDIATELY DEPLOYED ITS ARMED FORCES TO PROTECT THE STATE

THE SIKH REGIMENT WAS MOVED TO SRINAGAR. THEY WERE TASKED WITH CAPTURING AND THEN DEFENDING THE TOWN OF TITHWAL, WHICH WAS A FEW KILOMETRES FROM SRINAGAR



KARAM SINGH, WHO HAD BEEN PROMOTED TO LANCE NAIK, AND HIS MEN SET UP A POST ON THE OUTSARTS OF TITHWAL

*A MILITARY DECORATION AWARDED TO PERSONNEL OF THE BRITISH ARMY FOR BRAVERY

*BEFORE THE DECLARATION OF ACCESSION WITH INDIA, KASHMIR WAS AN INDEPENDENT STATE

ON 13 OCTOBER, 1948, THE PAKISTANI RAIDERS LAUNCHED A MASSIVE ATTACK ON ALPHA COMPANY OF 1 SIKH REGIMENT IN THE TITHWAL AREA

KARAM SINGH'S POST WAS THE FIRST TO BE ATTACKED

TAKE POSITIONS!

WE ARE HEAVILY OUTNUMBERED!

THEIR FIRING IS VERY ACCURATE WE HAVE LOST MANY OF OUR BUNKERS

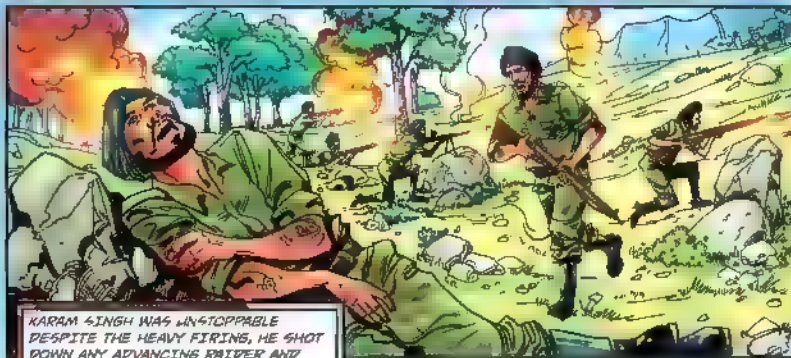
KARAM SINGH TOOK CHARGE

MOVE TO THE RIGHT AND CLEAR THE AREA!



KARAM SINGH AND HIS MEN STOOD THEIR GROUND. THE RAIDERS RETREATED BUT ONLY FOR A SHORT TIME.





KARAM SINGH WAS UNSTOPPABLE
DESPITE THE HEAVY FIRING, HE SHOT
DOWN ANY ADVANCING RAIDER AND
CONTINUED EVACUATING THE INJURED.

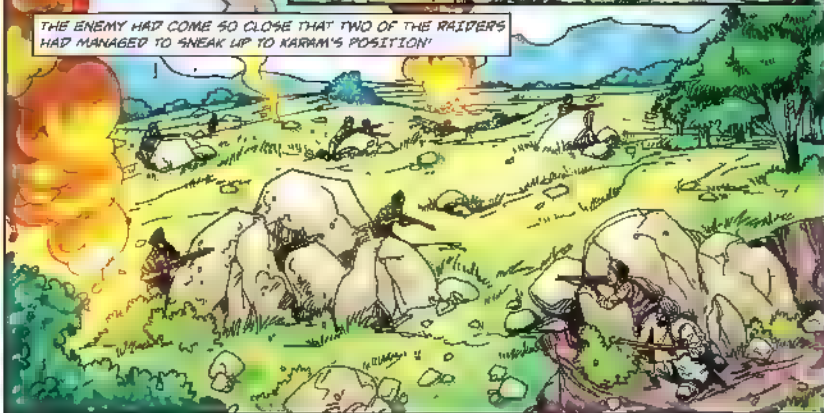
BY 1300 HRS, THE RAIDERS HAD PUT IN A FIFTH ATTACK.



THE ENEMY
IS GAINING
GROUND

THEY
ARE MOVING
IN VERY
QUICKLY

THE ENEMY HAD COME SO CLOSE THAT TWO OF THE RAIDERS
HAD MANAGED TO SNEAK UP TO KARAM'S POSITION.



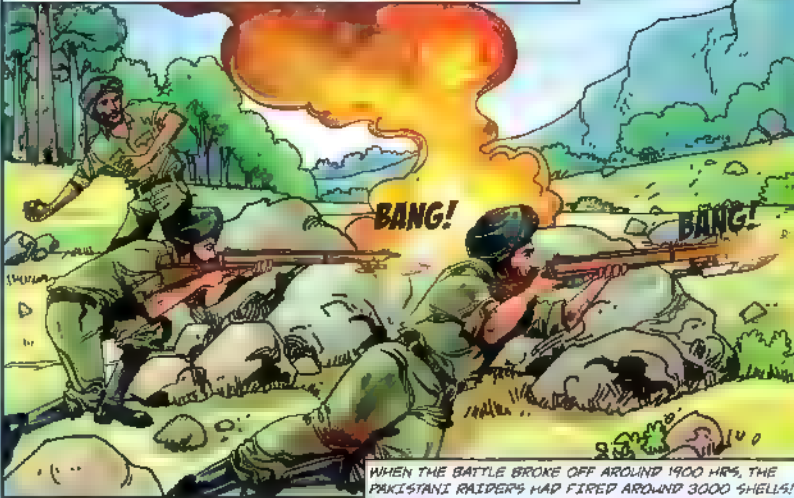
BUT KARAM SINGH HAD SEEN THEM APPROACH AND -



KARAM WAS BACK TO HIS POSITION BEFORE ANYONE REALISED WHAT HAD HAPPENED



THE ENEMY ATTEMPTED TWO MORE ATTACKS WHICH WERE UNSUCCESSFUL



WHEN THE BATTLE BROKE OFF AROUND 1900 HRS, THE PAKISTANI RAIDERS HAD FIRED AROUND 3000 SHELLS!

BUT THE INDIAN ARMY HAD STOOD ITS GROUND AND PUSHED THROUGH WITH GRIIT.



THE ENEMY IS RETREATING. TITHVAL HAS BEEN SECURED.



LANCE NAIK KARAM SINGH HAD DOMINATED THE BATTLEFIELD AND MADE HIS COUNTRY PROUD

LANCE NAIK KARAM SINGH WAS AWARDED THE PARAM VIR CHAKRA BY INDIA'S FIRST PRESIDENT, DR RAJENDRA PRASAD



HE WAS THE FIRST NON-POSTHUMOUS PERSON TO WIN THE AWARD

KARAM SINGH RETIRED FROM THE INDIAN ARMY AS SUBEDAR AND HONORARY CAPTAIN IN 1967



2/LT RAMA RAGHOBHA RANE

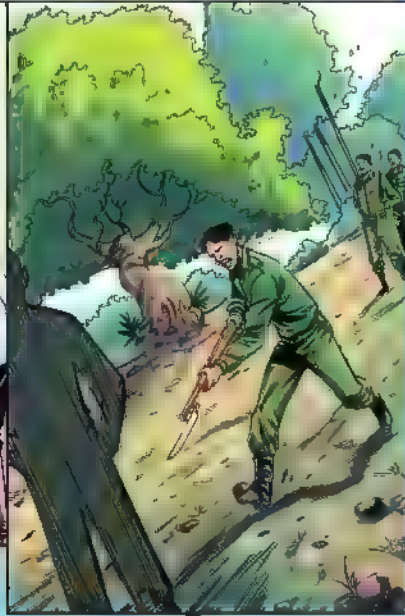
THE YEAR WAS 1940, AND WORLD WAR II WAS AT ITS PEAK. RAMA RAGHOBHA RANE HAD JUST MADE UP HIS MIND ABOUT WHAT HE WAS GOING TO DO WITH THE REST OF HIS LIFE.



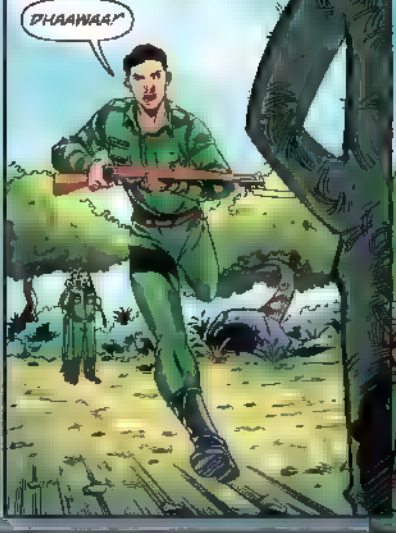
WHEN RAMA'S FATHER HEARD ABOUT HIS DECISION -



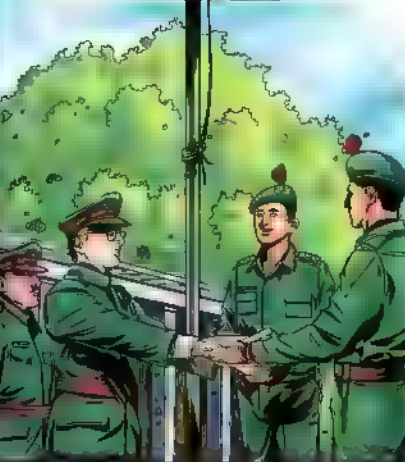
AND SO, RAMA RAGHOBA RANE ENLISTED IN THE ARMY.



RAMA TRAINED HARD



HIS EFFORTS DID NOT GO UNRECOGNISED AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY, HE WAS AWARDED THE COMMANDANT'S CANE**



*'FATHER', IN KONKANI
ATTACK

**AWARD GIVEN TO BEST CADET DURING TRAINING PERIOD

BEFORE LONG, HE WAS IN ACTIVE SERVICE, FIGHTING THE JAPANESE IN BURMA.



AERIAL ATTACK! TAKE COVER

RANE'S PROWESS IN BATTLE DID NOT GO UNNOTICED. HE WAS PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF NAIK.

BACK IN THE BUNKERS -



PACK YOUR BAGS, RANE. YOU HAVE BEEN RECOMMENDED FOR J.C.O.* TRAINING IN POONA. YOU'VE BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE BOMBAY ENGINEERS.

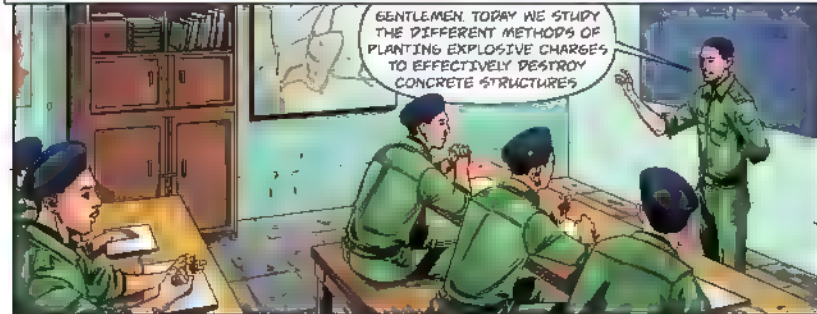


THANK YOU, SIR.

CONGRATULATIONS

RISING TO THE RANK OF J.C.O. IN THE PRE-INDEPENDENCE ARMY WAS NO MEAN FEAT FOR A SOLDIER.

TRAINING WITH THE BOMBAY ENGINEERS WAS RIGOROUS. IN WARTIME, THE ENGINEERING CORPS PROVIDES SUPPORT TO TROOPS BY BUILDING ROADS, HELIPADS, BRIDGES, ETC. THEY ALSO CLEAR MINES.



GENTLEMEN, TODAY WE STUDY THE DIFFERENT METHODS OF PLANTING EXPLOSIVE CHARGES TO EFFECTIVELY DESTROY CONCRETE STRUCTURES.

*JUNIOR COMMISSIONED OFFICER

*NOW PLANE

RANE TOOK TO HIS STUDIES LIKE A FISH TO WATER



NOW YOU'LL BE TESTED IN THE NEUTRALISATION OF ANTI TANK MINES. CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE MINE IN FRONT OF YOU?

IT'S THE G.S. MARK IV MINE SIR

GOOD NOW WHAT ARE THE STEPS FOR DISARMING IT?

TO NEUTRALISE THE G.S. MARK IV, FIRST YOU REMOVE THE PRESSURE PLATE AND INSERT A SAFETY PIN IN THE SAFETY PIN HOLE IN THE STRIKER

THEN YOU REMOVE THE FUSE FROM THE FUSE WELL

AND FINALLY, YOU REMOVE THE MINE FROM THE GROUND AND PUT THE PRESSURE PLATE BACK ON.

VERY GOOD, RANE!

BASED ON HIS PERFORMANCE, J.C.O. RANE WAS COMMISSIONED INTO THE ARMY. HE UNDERWENT FOUR YEARS OF RIGOROUS TRAINING TO BECOME A COMMISSIONED OFFICER

DECEMBER, 1947

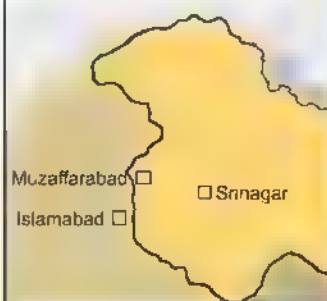


CONGRATULATIONS ON BEING COMMISSIONED INTO THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS, RANE! INDEPENDENT INDIA WILL NEED BRAVE SOLDIERS LIKE YOU

THANK YOU, SIR. NOTHING WOULD MAKE ME HAPPIER THAN TO SERVE MY COUNTRY ON THE BATTLEFIELD

WHILE RANE HAD BEEN IN TRAINING, INDIA HAD WON HER INDEPENDENCE FROM THE BRITISH. THE ARMY WAS NOW SERVING ITS OWN NEWBORN NATION.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE ARMED FORCES OF INDIA DID NOT HAVE MUCH TIME TO SAVOUR THEIR FREEDOM.



DURING THE TURBULENT PARTITION OF BRITISH INDIA INTO INDIA AND PAKISTAN, THERE WERE A LOT OF POLITICAL DISAGREEMENTS. CHIEF AMONG THEM WAS THE CONFLICT OVER THE STATUS OF THE PRINCELY STATE OF JAMMU & KASHMIR.

IN OCTOBER, 1947, TRIBAL MILITIA AND IRREGULAR PAKISTANI FORCES SHEPT INTO KASHMIR, INTENDING TO TAKE SRINAGAR.

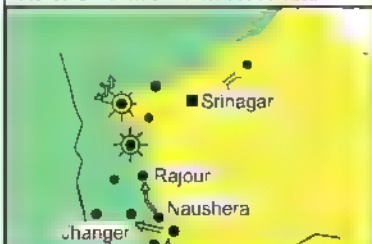


THE STATE FORCES AT THE BORDERS WERE QUICKLY DEFEATED BY THE TRIBALS. MAHARAJA HARI SINGH SOUGHT HELP FROM INDIA AND SIGNED THE INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION.

INDIAN TROOPS REINFORCED THE STATE FORCES, AND THE SKIRMISHES QUICKLY ESCALATED INTO THE 1947 INDO-PAK WAR.



IN EARLY 1948, THE TRIBAL FORCES CAPTURED THE VILLAGE OF JHANGER, AND ATTACKED THE VILLAGE OF NAUSHERA UNSUCCESSFULLY.



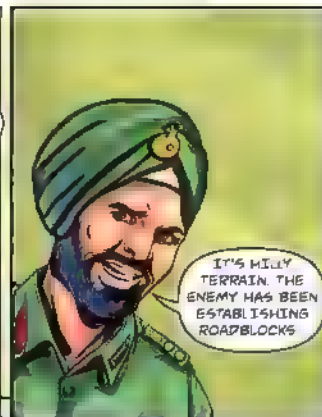
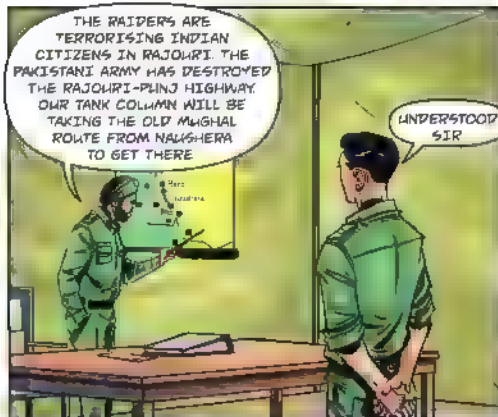
MORE INDIAN TROOPS WERE BROUGHT TO THE FRONT, AND JHANGER WAS QUICKLY RECAPTURED.

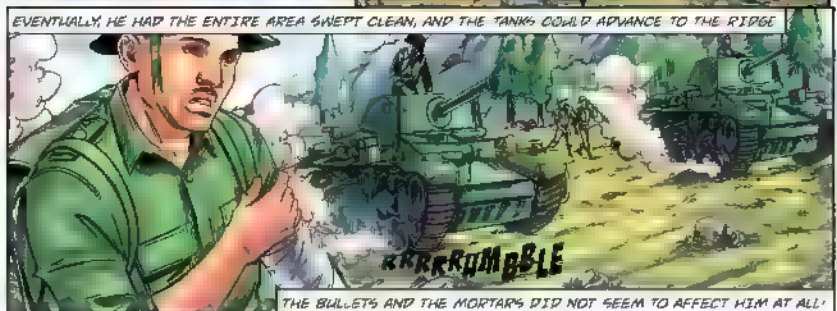
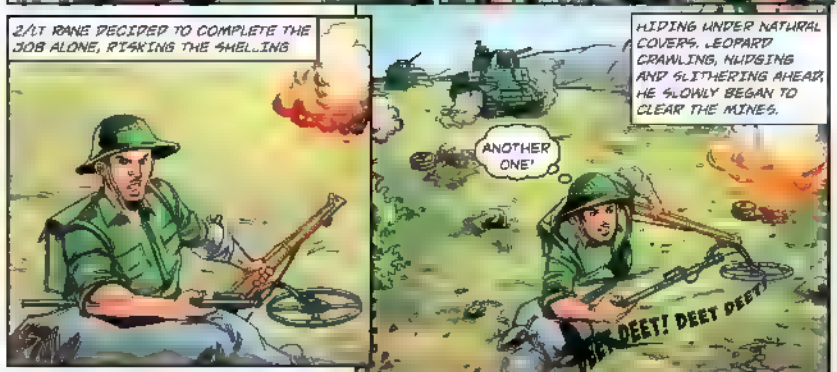
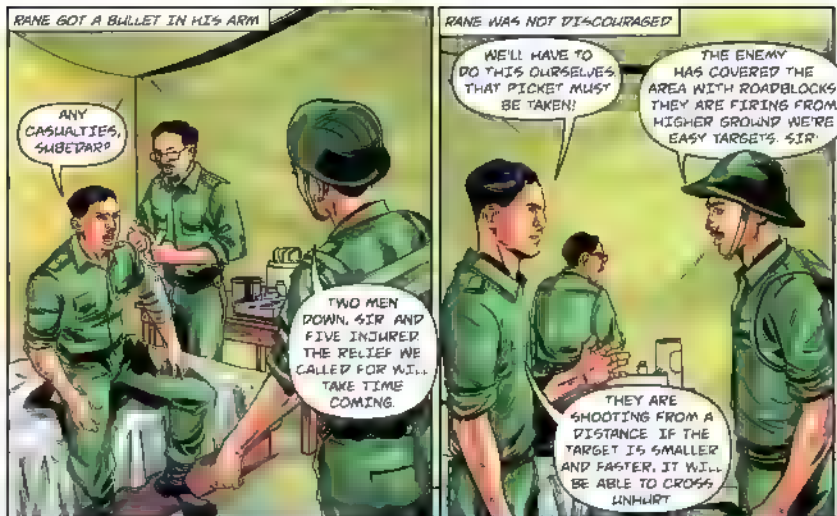
RANE WAS NOW A SECOND LIEUTENANT IN THE ARMY, COMMANDING A SECTION OF THE 37 ASSAULT FIELD COMPANY.

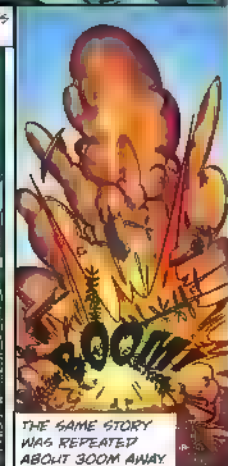
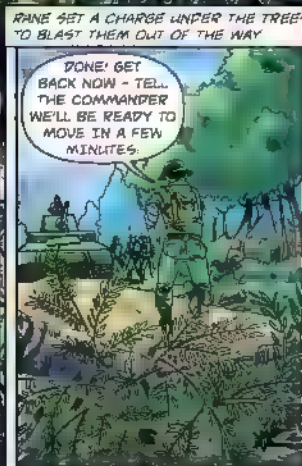
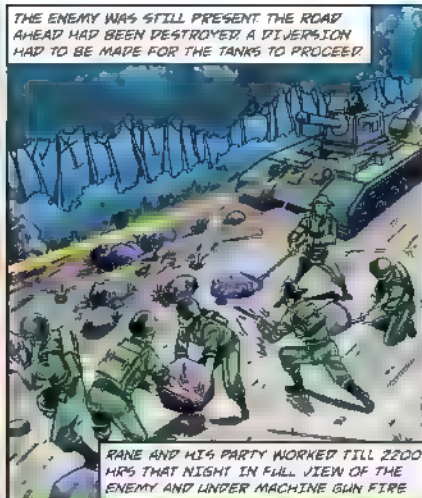


YOU CALLED FOR ME, SIR?

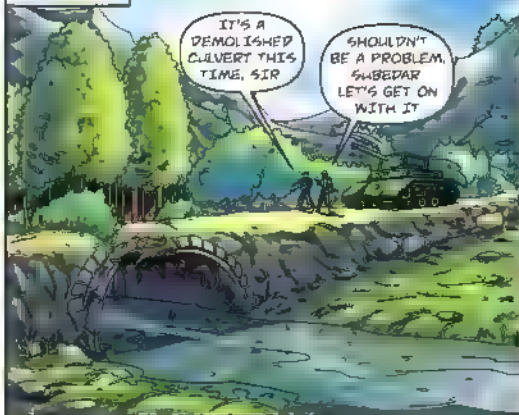
AH. RANE WE'LL GET RIGHT TO THE BRIEFING.







AT 1700 HRS -



IT'S A
DEMOLISHED
CULVERT THIS
TIME, SIR

SHOULDN'T
BE A PROBLEM.
SUBEDAR
LET'S GET ON
WITH IT

BUT BEFORE HE COULD START WORK
THE ENEMY OPENED UP WITH THEIR
MACHINE GUNS

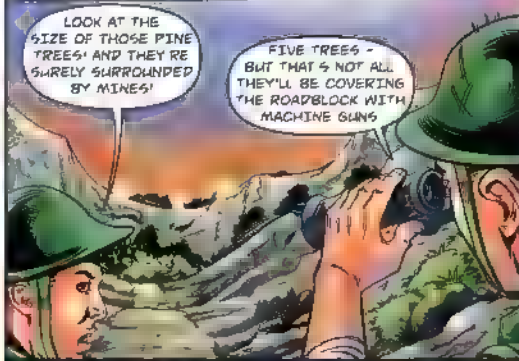


COME ON
MEN! WE HAVE
TO MOVE ON! WE
HAVE A JOB
TO DO!

YES,
SIR!

UNDER RANE'S LEADERSHIP THE
MEN CREATED A DIVERSION FOR
THE TANKS TO PASS THROUGH.

BY 1815 HRS, THEY HAD CLEARED NUMEROUS ROADBLOCKS AND
LIGHT WAS FADING FAST, BUT THEIR BIGGEST CHALLENGE
STILL LAY IN FRONT OF THEM.



LOOK AT THE
SIZE OF THOSE PINE
TREES! AND THEY'RE
SURELY SURROUNDED
BY MINES!

FIVE TREES -
BUT THAT'S NOT ALL
THEY'LL BE COVERING
THE ROADBLOCK WITH
MACHINE GUNS

RANE BEGAN CLEARING THE MINES,
UNFAZED BY ENEMY FIRE.

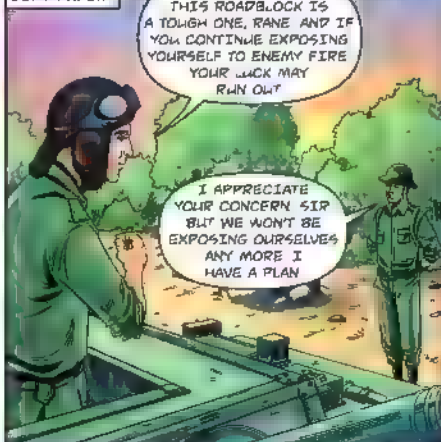


SIR! THE
COLUMN COMMANDER
SAYS WE'RE DONE FOR
THE DAY HE'S TAKING
THE TANKS TO A
HARBOUR AREA

DID YOU TELL
HIM THAT WE CAN
GO ON WORKING
THROUGH THE
NIGHT?

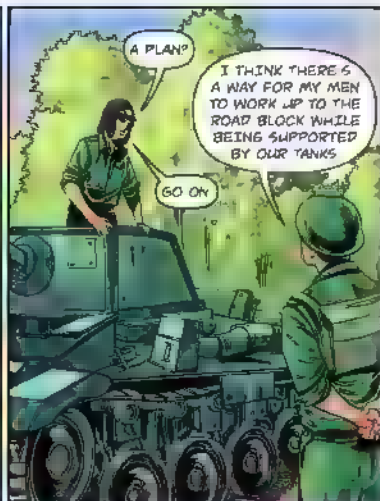
YES, SIR
HE DOESN'T
WANT TO TAKE
THE RISK

THEY CALLED IT A NIGHT, BUT RANE WAS UP AGAIN BEFORE DAYBREAK, AND WENT TO SEE THE COLUMN COMMANDER



THIS ROADBLOCK IS A TOUGH ONE, RANE AND IF YOU CONTINUE EXPOSING YOURSELF TO ENEMY FIRE YOUR LUCK MAY RUN OUT

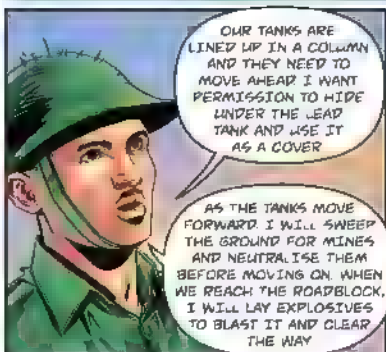
I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN SIR BUT WE WON'T BE EXPOSING OURSELVES ANY MORE I HAVE A PLAN



A PLAN?

GO ON

I THINK THERE'S A WAY FOR MY MEN TO WORK UP TO THE ROAD BLOCK WHILE BEING SUPPORTED BY OUR TANKS



OUR TANKS ARE LINED UP IN A COLUMN AND THEY NEED TO MOVE AHEAD I WANT PERMISSION TO HIDE UNDER THE LEAD TANK AND USE IT AS A COVER

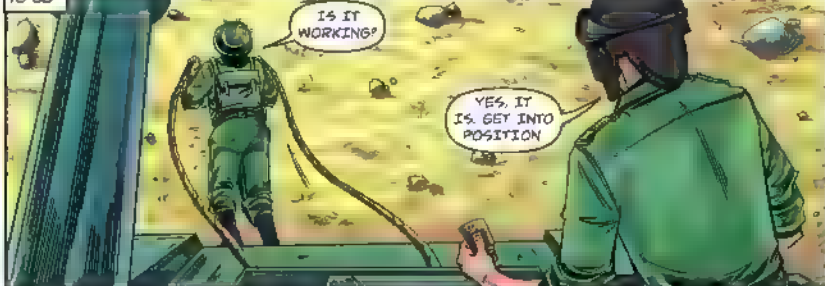
AS THE TANKS MOVE FORWARD I WILL SWEEP THE GROUND FOR MINES AND NEUTRALISE THEM BEFORE MOVING ON. WHEN WE REACH THE ROADBLOCK, I WILL LAY EXPLOSIVES TO BLAST IT AND CLEAR THE WAY



HMM... THAT'S A DARING PLAN! HOW WILL YOU LET MY DRIVER KNOW THAT IT'S SAFE TO CROSS AFTER YOU HAVE EXTRACTED THE MINE?

SIR WE WILL MAKE A ROPE SIGNAL AS SOON AS I CLEAR A MINE I WILL PULL THE LEFT ROPE AND HE CAN MOVE AHEAD WHEN I PULL THE RIGHT ROPE HE NEEDS TO STOP

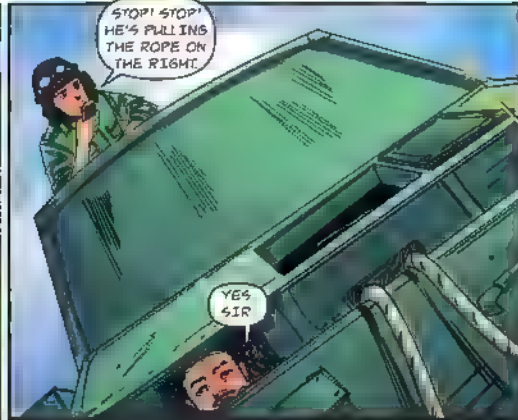
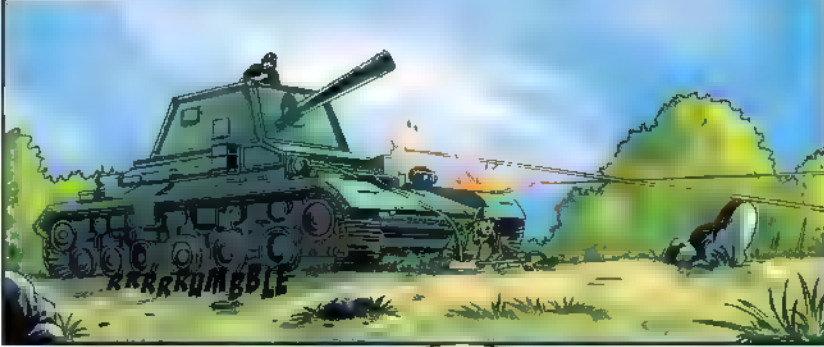
THE COMMANDER GAVE RANE PERMISSION TO TRY HIS UNUSUAL IDEA. BY 0445 HRS, THEY WERE RARING TO GO



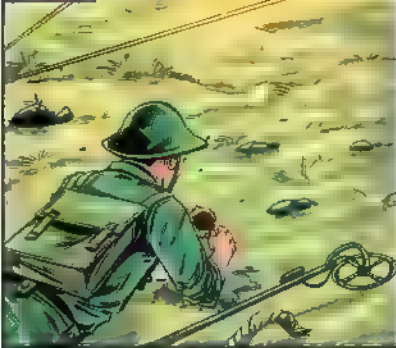
IS IT WORKING?

YES, IT IS. GET INTO POSITION

THEY SET OFF



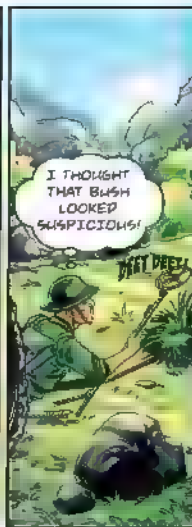
RANE PATIENTLY AND PAINSTAKINGLY WENT ABOUT HIS WORK



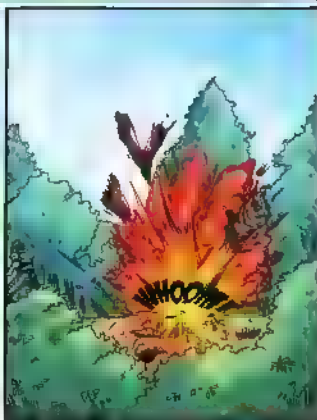
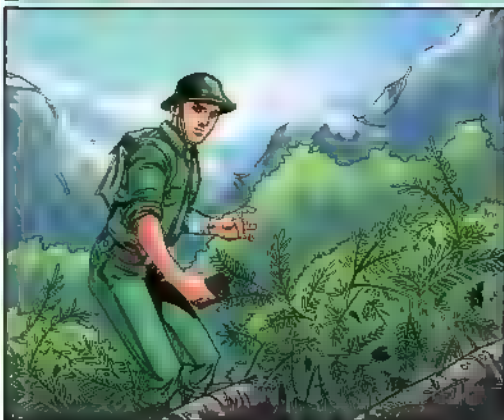
THE ROPE SIGNALS WORKED JERY WELL, AND HE COULD EASILY COMMUNICATE WITH THE OCCUPANTS OF THE TANK

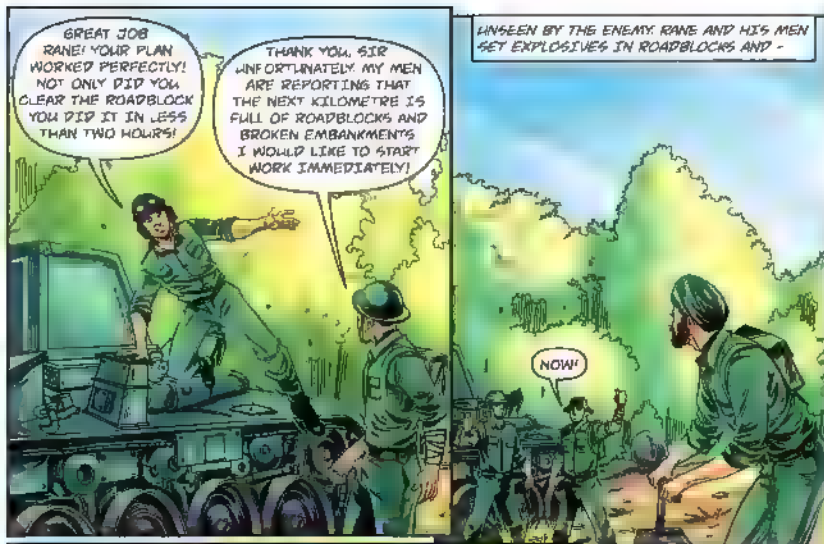


RHANE STEADILY
CLEARED THE WAY FOR
A SINGLE TANK COLUMN
TO PASS THROUGH



IT WAS NOT LONG BEFORE THEY REACHED A ROADBLOCK





GREAT JOB RANE! YOUR PLAN WORKED PERFECTLY! NOT ONLY DID YOU CLEAR THE ROADBLOCK YOU DID IT IN LESS THAN TWO HOURS!

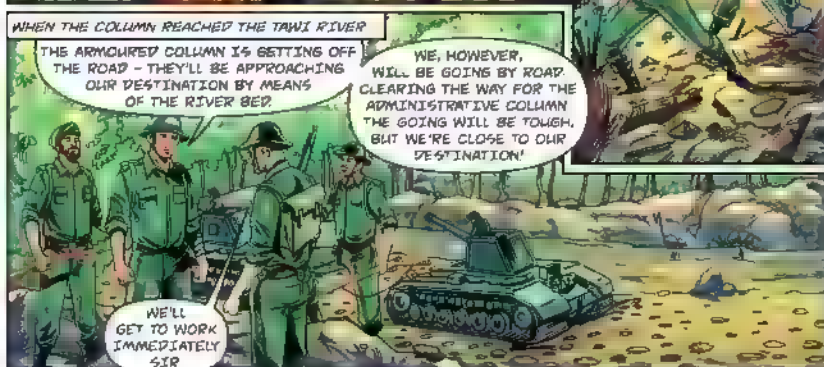
THANK YOU, SIR UNFORTUNATELY MY MEN ARE REPORTING THAT THE NEXT KILOMETRE IS FULL OF ROADBLOCKS AND BROKEN EMBANKMENTS I WOULD LIKE TO START WORK IMMEDIATELY!

UNSEEN BY THE ENEMY RANE AND HIS MEN SET EXPLOSIVES IN ROADBLOCKS AND -

NOW!



DESPITE BEING WOUNDED, Z/LT RANE SHOWED EXEMPLARY COURAGE AND LEADERSHIP, AND CLEARED THE ROAD BY 1030 HRS



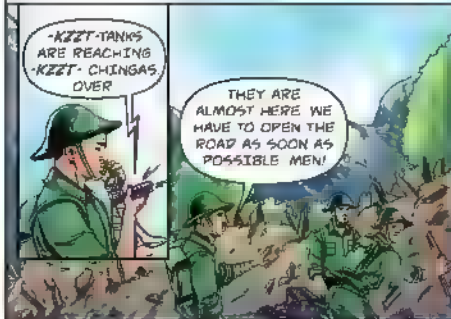
WHEN THE COLUMN REACHED THE TAWI RIVER

THE ARMOURD COLUMN IS GETTING OFF THE ROAD - THEY'LL BE APPROACHING OUR DESTINATION BY MEANS OF THE RIVER BED.

WE, HOWEVER, WILL BE GOING BY ROAD. CLEARING THE WAY FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE COLUMN THE GOING WILL BE TOUGH, BUT WE'RE CLOSE TO OUR DESTINATION!

WE'LL GET TO WORK IMMEDIATELY SIR

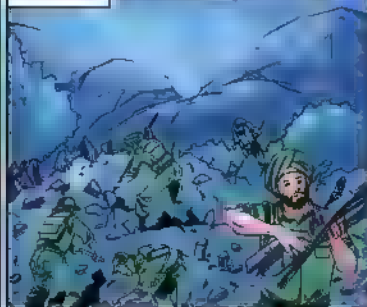
AT 1400 HRS, AS RANE WAS BUSY CLEARING THE ROAD TO CHINGAS, A VILLAGE 22 KKM FROM RAJOURI -



"KZZT-TANKS ARE REACHING
"KZZT- CHINGAS OVER

THEY ARE ALMOST HERE WE HAVE TO OPEN THE ROAD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE MEN!

RANE AND HIS MEN WORKED TIRELESSLY, WITHOUT FOOD OR REST, TILL 2100 HRS THAT NIGHT.



ON 11 APRIL 1948, BY 1100 HRS, THE ROAD TO CHINGAS WAS OPENED



THEY'RE HERE! THEY'RE HERE!

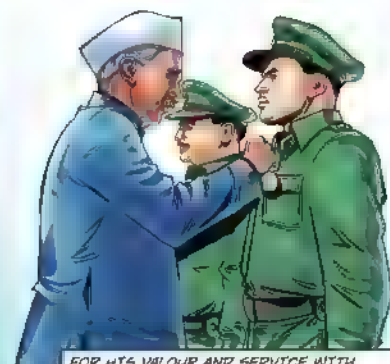
AMAZING! RANE'S DONE IT AGAIN, FASTER THAN ANYONE EXPECTED!



WELCOME TO CHINGAS, RANE WOULD YOU LIKE TO REST FOR A WHILE?

WE'LL REST AFTER WE REACH RAJOURI AND RELIEVE THE CITIZENS THERE, SIR

THE INDIAN ARMY SOON LIBERATED RAJOURI, WITH Z/LT RAGHOBHA RANE PLAYING A VITAL PART IN THE EFFORT.

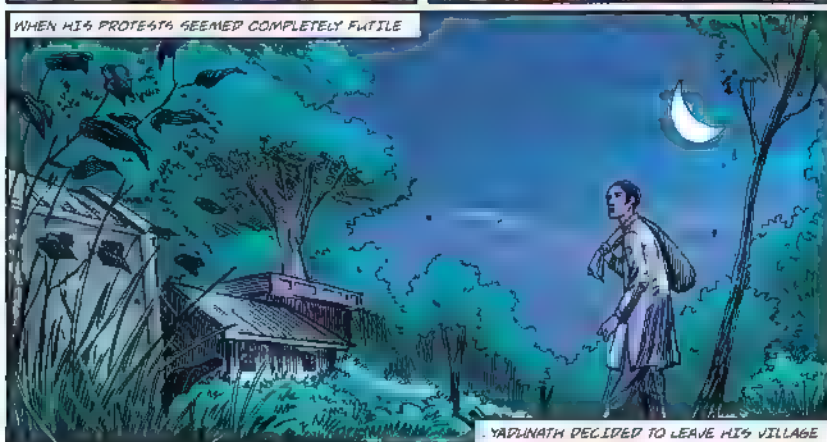
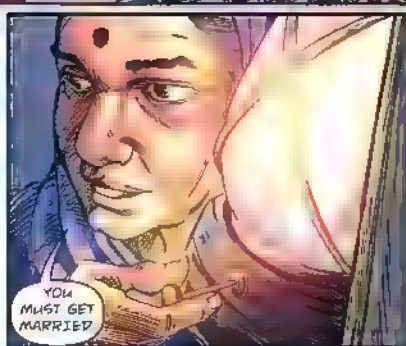
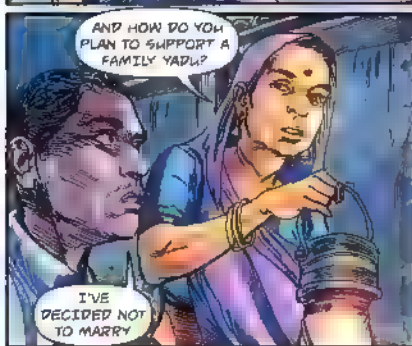
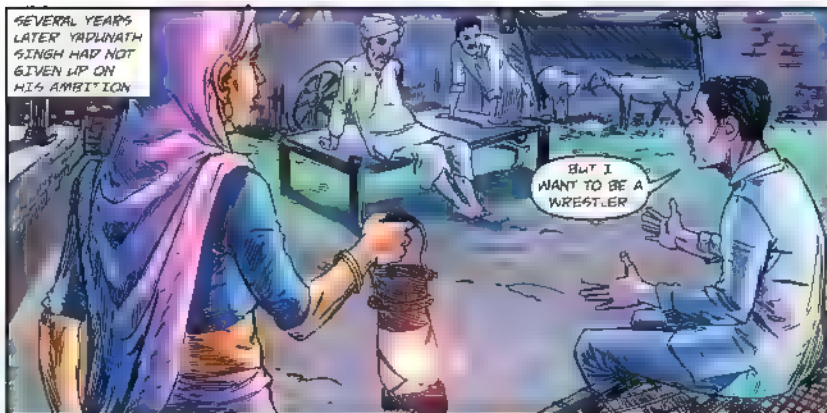


RANE CONTINUED CLEARING THE ROADS FROM CHINGAS TO RAJOURI TILL 2200 HRS.

FOR HIS VALOUR AND SERVICE WITH COMPLETE DISREGARD FOR PERSONAL SAFETY, HE WAS AWARDED THE PARAM VIR CHAKRA.

NAIK YADUNATH SINGH





SOON, THE FLUCKY YOUNG MAN DECIDED TO JOIN THE ARMY IT WOULD GIVE HIM THE PHYSICALLY ACTIVE LIFE HE WANTED



ON 21 NOVEMBER 1941, YADUNATH SINGH ENROLLED IN 1 RAJPUT REGIMENT AS A SEPOY



AN ACTIVE AND FIT PERSON. HE PLAYED HARD AND TRAINED HARDER



YADUNATH LOVED BEING IN THE ARMY

ONE DAY WHEN ALL THE SOLDIERS WERE HAVING LUNCH -



YOU! COME AND SEE ME IN MY OFFICE TOMORROW MORNING

YES, SIR!



SEVERAL YEARS LATER AN INDEPENDENT INDIA WAS ENGAGED WITH HER NEIGHBOUR PAKISTAN, IN A BATTLE OVER TERRITORY IN KASHMIR

ON 24 DECEMBER, 1947, PAKISTAN HAD CAPTURED JHANGAR. THIS HAD MADE THE POSITION OF THE PAKISTANI ARMY MORE ADVANTAGEOUS

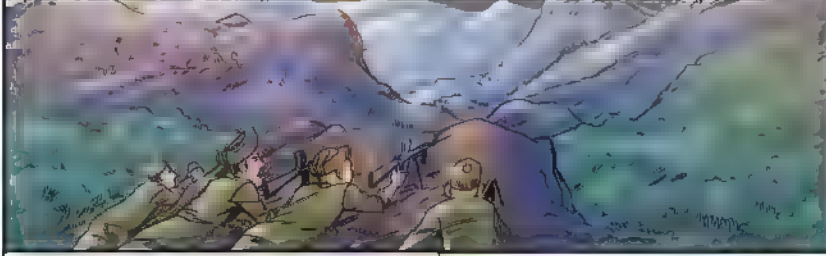
IN JANUARY, 1948, THE INDIAN ARMY CONDUCTED SEVERAL OPERATIONS TO ENSURE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO ENEMY BUILDUP ALONG THE BORDER

IN THE MEANTIME, PAKISTAN'S ARMY HAD ALREADY MADE FOUR FRONTAL ATTACKS ON TAINDHAR IN KASHMIR, BUT THEY HAD BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. THE INDIAN ARMY REALISED THAT AN ATTACK ON THE NEARBY NAWSHERA POST WAS IMMINENT AND ESTABLISHED STRONG PICKETS IN DEFENCE

SURE ENOUGH, THE PAKISTAN ARMY SWITCHED ITS EFFORTS TO NAWSHERA. THE LEFT FLANK OF THE NAWSHERA DEFENCES, NO. 2 PICKET, WAS A JITAL POST. A GROUP OF NINE MEN OF 1 RAJPUT HAD HELD THIS SPOT. THEY WERE LED BY YADUNATH SINGH, NOW NAIX YADUNATH SINGH.



6 FEBRUARY, 1948, WAS PROBABLY THE LONGEST DAY IN THE LIVES OF NAIK YADUNATH SINGH AND HIS EIGHT SOLDIERS. THE ENEMY HAD CREEPT UP CLOSE TO THEIR PICKET BEFORE DAYBREAK



AS THE FIRST RAYS OF SUNLIGHT HIT THE GROUND, THE SOLDIERS OF 1 RAJPLT SPOTTED SOME MOVEMENT

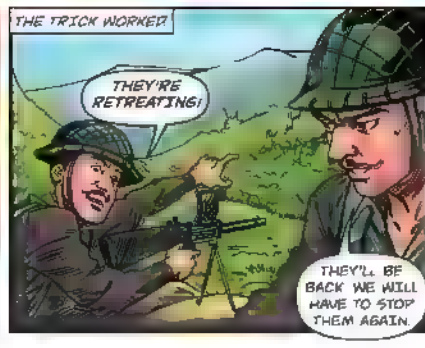
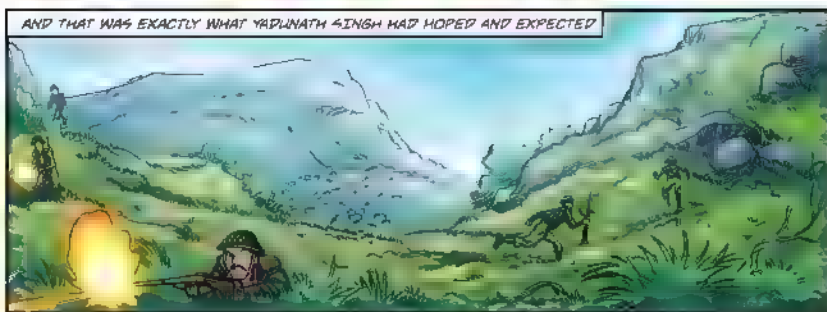
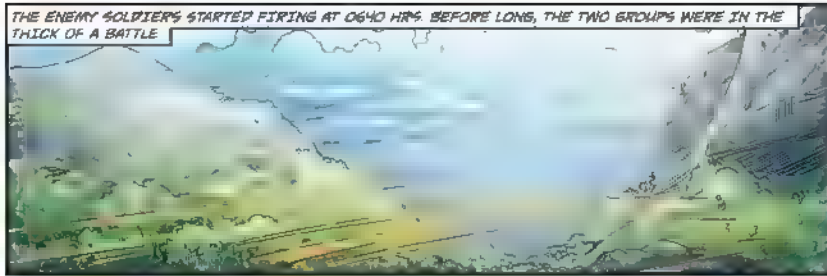


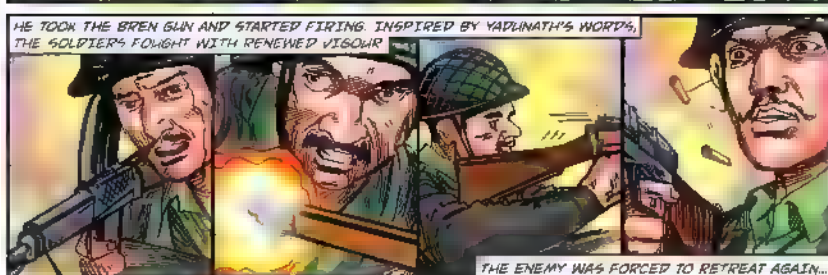
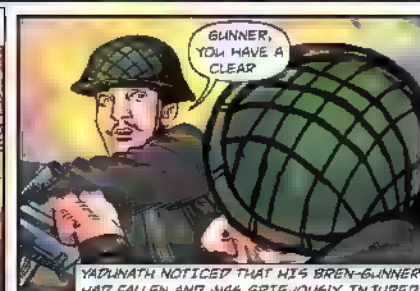
YADUNATH SINGH RADIOED HIS BASE CAMP IMMEDIATELY



A STRAIGHT-TALKER YADUNATH TOLD HIS MEN EXACTLY WHAT TO EXPECT

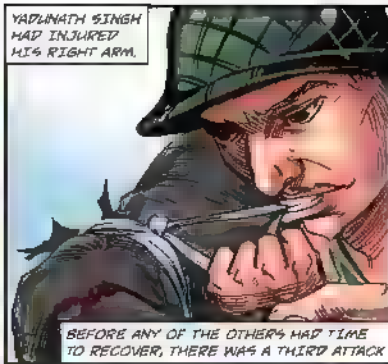






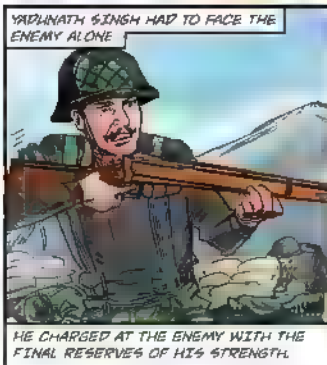


...BUT ALL NINE
SOLDIERS WERE
LEFT WOUNDED.



YADUNATH SINGH
HAD INJURED
HIS RIGHT ARM.

BEFORE ANY OF THE OTHERS HAD TIME
TO RECOVER, THERE WAS A THIRD ATTACK.



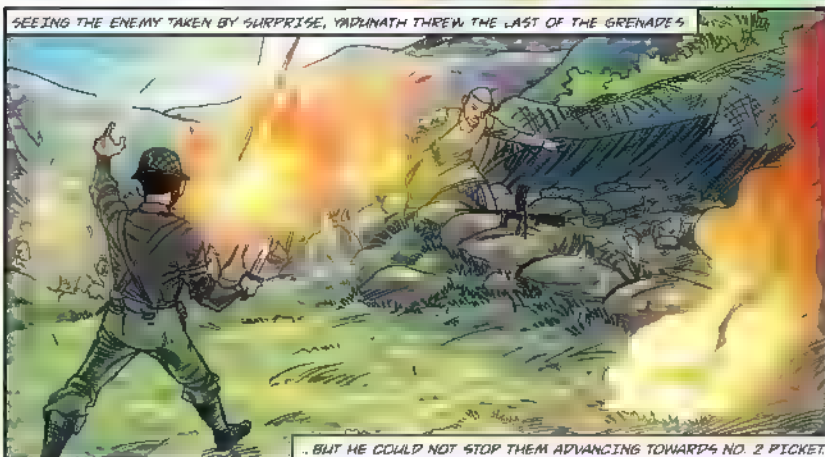
YADUNATH SINGH HAD TO FACE THE
ENEMY ALONE.

HE CHARGED AT THE ENEMY WITH THE
FINAL RESERVES OF HIS STRENGTH.



WH

I THOUGHT
THEY WERE
ALL DEAD



SEEING THE ENEMY TAKEN BY SURPRISE, YADUNATH THREW THE LAST OF THE GRENADES.

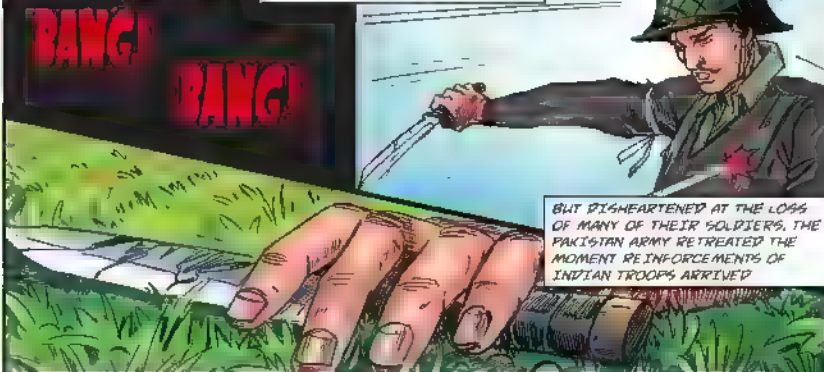
...BUT HE COULD NOT STOP THEM ADVANCING TOWARDS NO. 2 PICKET.

WHAT FOLLOWED WAS A DISPLAY OF UNRELENTING HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT BOTH FIERCE AND RUTHLESS



AND THEN -

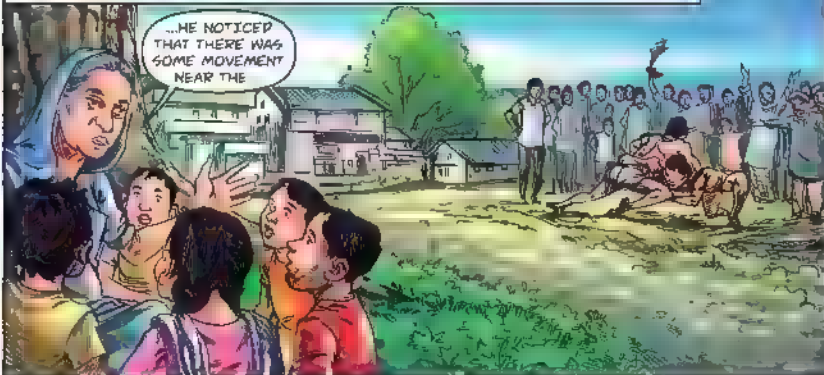
IT TOOK ONLY TWO BULLETS TO END THE LIFE OF THE VALIANT SOLDIER



BUT DISHEARTENED AT THE LOSS OF MANY OF THEIR SOLDIERS, THE PAKISTAN ARMY RETREATED THE MOMENT REINFORCEMENTS OF INDIAN TROOPS ARRIVED

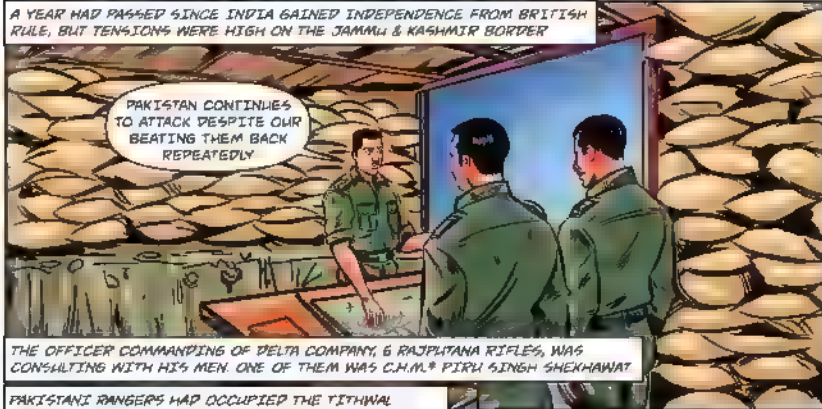
EVEN IN HIS DEATH, NAIK YADUNATH SINGH HAD MANAGED TO PROTECT HIS PICKET FROM BEING TAKEN OVER. FOR HIS GALLANTRY HE WAS POSTHUMOUSLY AWARDED THE PARAM VIR CHAKRA.

EVEN TODAY, THE PEOPLE OF SHAHJAHANPUR PROUDLY RETELL THE STORY OF THE VALIANT SOLDIER AND CELEBRATE HIS BIRTH AND DEATH ANNIVERSARIES WITH GREAT HONOUR



CHM PIRU SINGH SHEKHAWAT

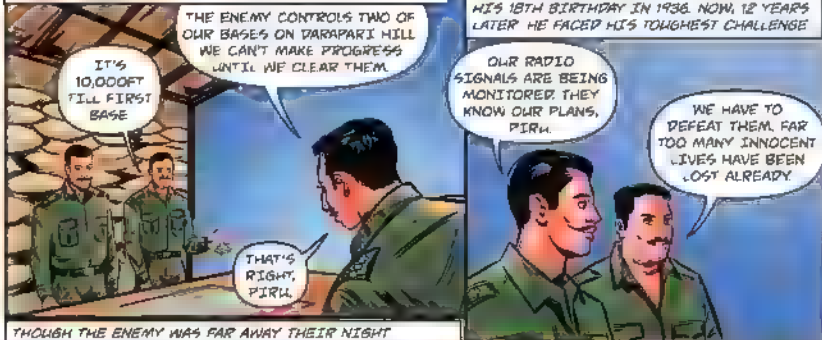
A YEAR HAD PASSED SINCE INDIA GAINED INDEPENDENCE FROM BRITISH RULE, BUT TENSIONS WERE HIGH ON THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BORDER



THE OFFICER COMMANDING OF DELTA COMPANY, 6 RAJPUTANA RIFLES, WAS CONSULTING WITH HIS MEN. ONE OF THEM WAS C.H.M.* PIRU SINGH SHEKHAWAT

PAKISTANI RANGERS HAD OCCUPIED THE TITHNAL REGION IN A BID TO TAKE OVER KASHMIR. 6 RAJPUTANA RIFLES HAD THE TASK OF DRIVING THEM OUT.

PIRU HAD ENROLLED IN THE REGIMENT ON HIS 18TH BIRTHDAY IN 1936. NOW, 12 YEARS LATER HE FACED HIS TOUGHEST CHALLENGE



WE HAVE TO DEFEAT THEM. FAR TOO MANY INNOCENT LIVES HAVE BEEN LOST ALREADY

THOUGH THE ENEMY WAS FAR AWAY THEIR NIGHT TRAINING COMPELLED THEM TO SPEAK IN HUSHED TONES.



*COMPANY HAVILDAR MAJOR



THE DIFFICULT TREK BEGAN AN HOUR AFTER THE BRIEFING



WHEN THEY REACHED THE TREES -



THE MEN BEGAN DIGGING TRENCHES WITH EXTREME CAUTION

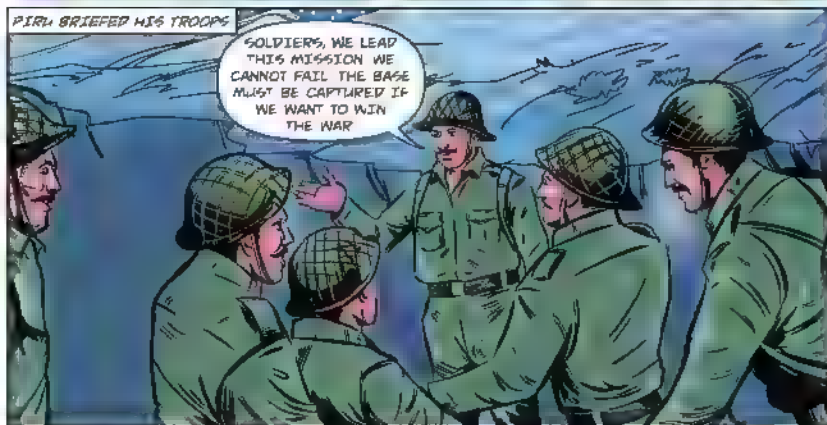


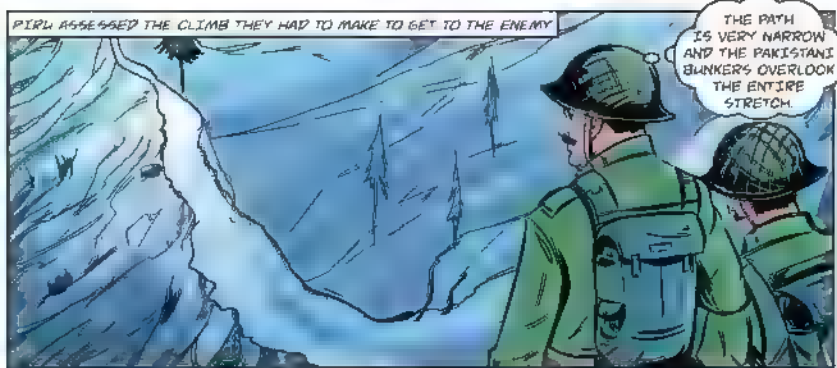
THE SOLDIERS WERE NOT EVEN ALLOWED TO LIGHT A MATCH FOR FEAR OF BEING SEEN BY THE ENEMY



AFTER A WHILE, FIRU WAS SUMMONED BY THE OFFICER COMMANDING







THE SOLDIERS MADE GOOD PROGRESS FOR A WHILE BUT WERE SOON SPOTTED BY THE ENEMY.



THE PAKISTANIS LAUNCHED A FIERCE ATTACK

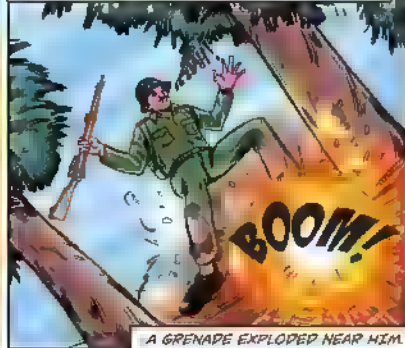




THE PAKISTANI SOLDIERS WERE RELENTLESS. WITHIN 30 MINUTES, THE INDIANS HAD SUFFERED 51 CASUALTIES.

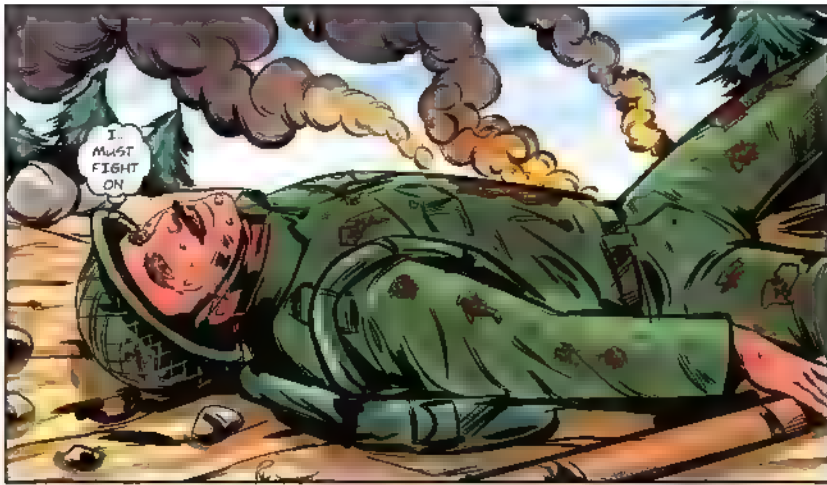


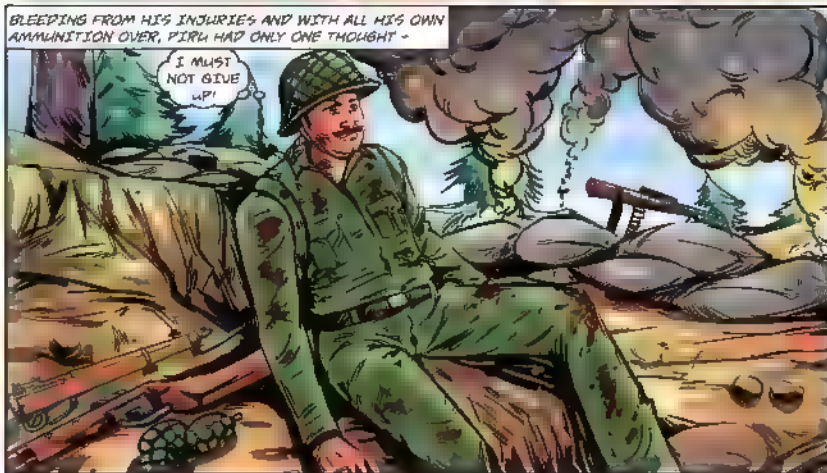
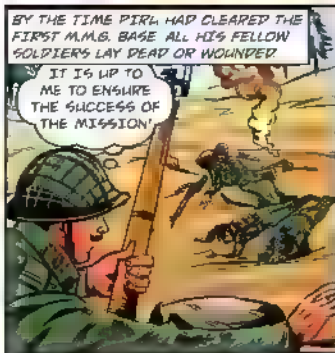
WITHOUT HESITATION, PIRU CHARGED TOWARDS THE BLINKER. BUT BEFORE HE COULD MAKE IT

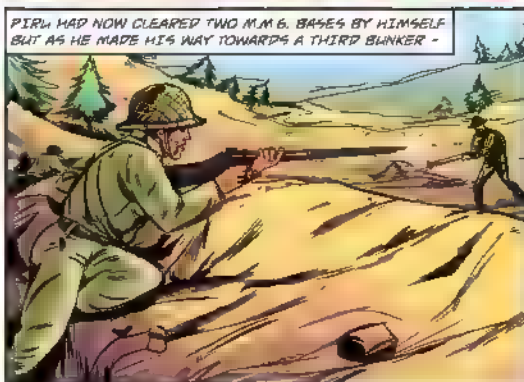
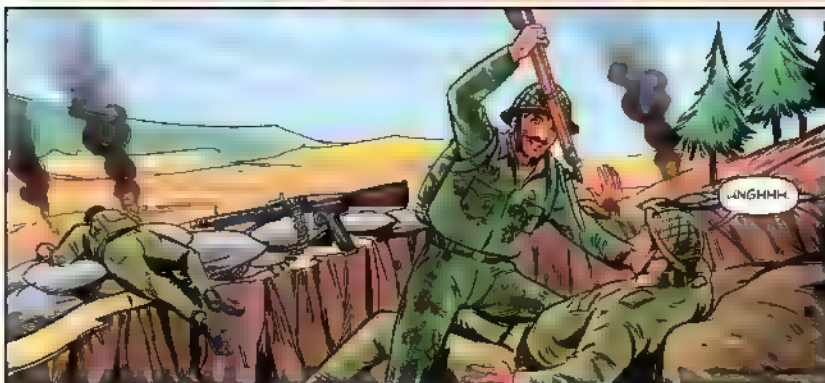
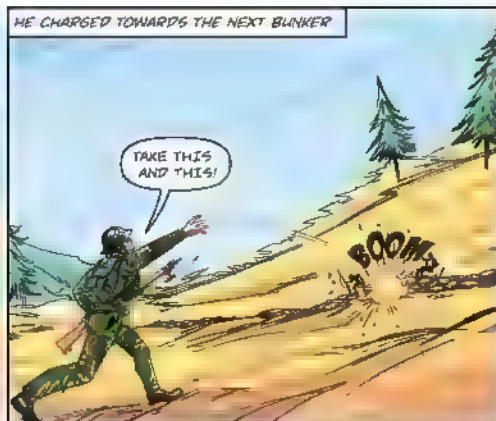


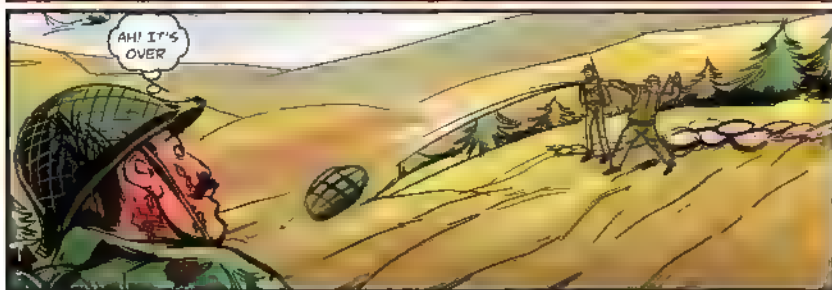
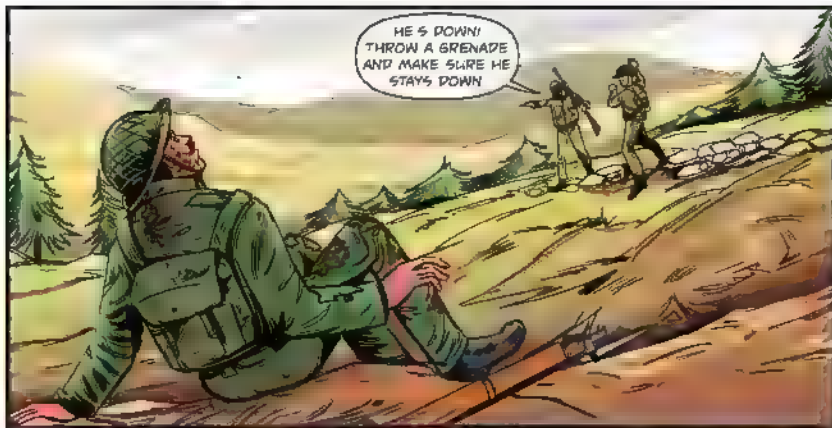
A GRENADE EXPLODED NEAR HIM.

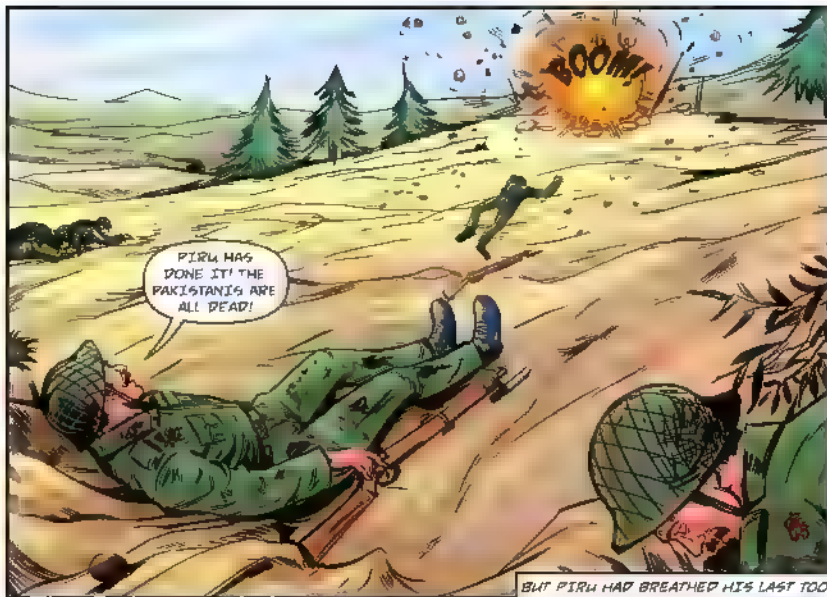
*MEDIUM MACHINE GUN





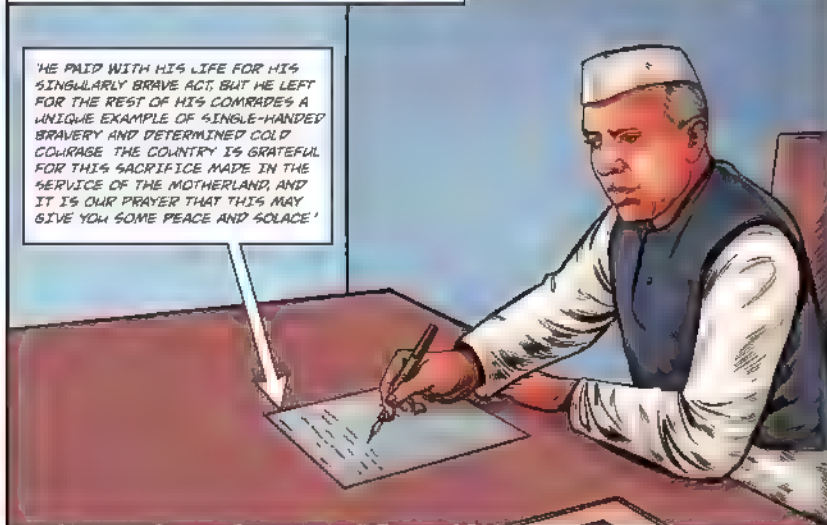






PIRU'S BRAVE ACT GAVE THE INDIANS A MAJOR ADVANTAGE AFTER THE WAR PRIME MINISTER JAWAHARLAL NEHRU WROTE TO PIRU'S MOTHER, SAYING -

'HE PAID WITH HIS LIFE FOR HIS SINGULARLY BRAVE ACT, BUT HE LEFT FOR THE REST OF HIS COMRADES A UNIQUE EXAMPLE OF SINGLE-HANDED BRAVERY AND DETERMINED COLD COURAGE. THE COUNTRY IS GRATEFUL FOR THIS SACRIFICE MADE IN THE SERVICE OF THE MOTHERLAND, AND IT IS OUR PRAYER THAT THIS MAY GIVE YOU SOME PEACE AND SOLACE.'



PIRU SINGH SHEKHAWAT WAS AWARDED THE PARAM VIR CHAKRA POSTHUMOUSLY FOR HIS HEROIC DEEDS.

CAPTAIN G.S. SALARIA





*AN INTERNATIONAL MILITARY FORCE SENT BY THE UNITED NATIONS TO MAINTAIN A TRUCE BETWEEN COUNTRIES OR COMMUNITIES

*NOW KNOWN AS KINSHASA
**TO WITHDRAW FORMALLY FROM AN ALLIANCE



THE THIRD BATTALION OF THE 1ST GUARDA RIFLES REGIMENT, LED BY LT COL S.S. MAITRA, LEFT FOR CONGO IN THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL 1961. AFTER A BRIEF STAY AT LEOPOLDVILLE FOR ORIENTATION, THE BATTALION WAS MOVED TO KAMINA, AN IMPORTANT MILITARY BASE IN NORTHERN KATANGA.











*THE CITY NOW KNOWN AS LIBREVILLE



AT 1300 HRS, CAPTAIN SALARIA AND HIS PLATOON WERE ON THEIR WAY TO THE ROUNDABOUT AREA FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE AIRFIELD



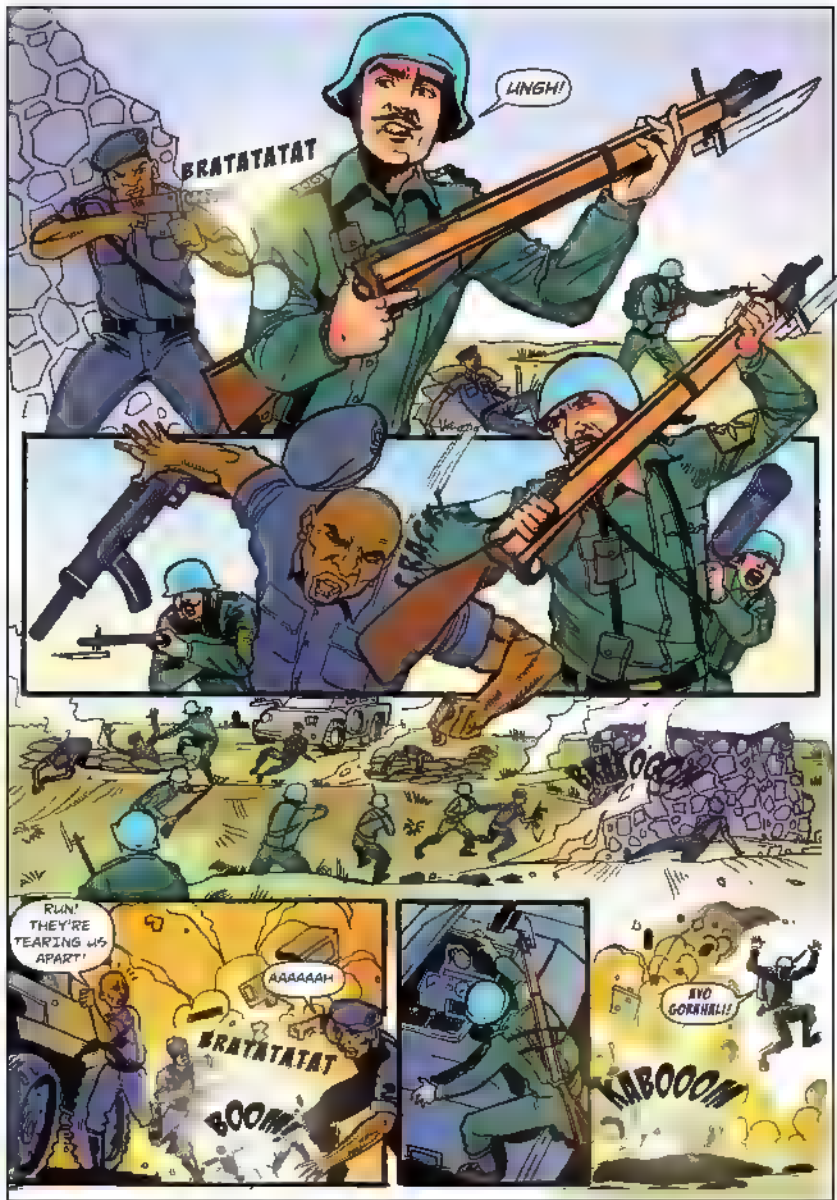
*RADIO SPEAK FOR "RECEIVED, WILL COMPLY"





*WAR CRY OF THE GORKHA REGIMENT





THE BATTLE WAS ALMOST OVER THE SOLDIERS CHECKED FOR SURVIVORS AND PICKED UP THE WOUNDED CAPTAIN SALARIA SAT WATCHING.



CAPTAIN! WE DID IT! I DIDN'T THINK WE COULD BUT WE DID IT!

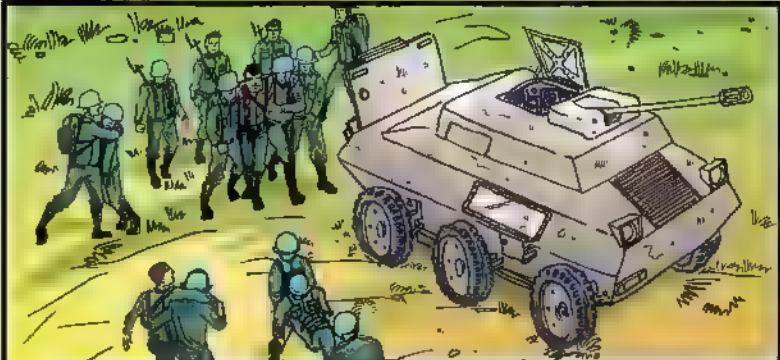
THE CAPTAIN KNEW WE HAD IT IN US! IF IT WASN'T FOR HIM...



CAPTAIN ?



CAPTAIN GURBACHAN SINGH SALARIA'S SMALL FORCE OF 16 MEN HAD TAKEN OUT 40 REBELS AND FORCED THE REST TO FLEE BUT SALARIA HIMSELF WAS FATALY INJURED.



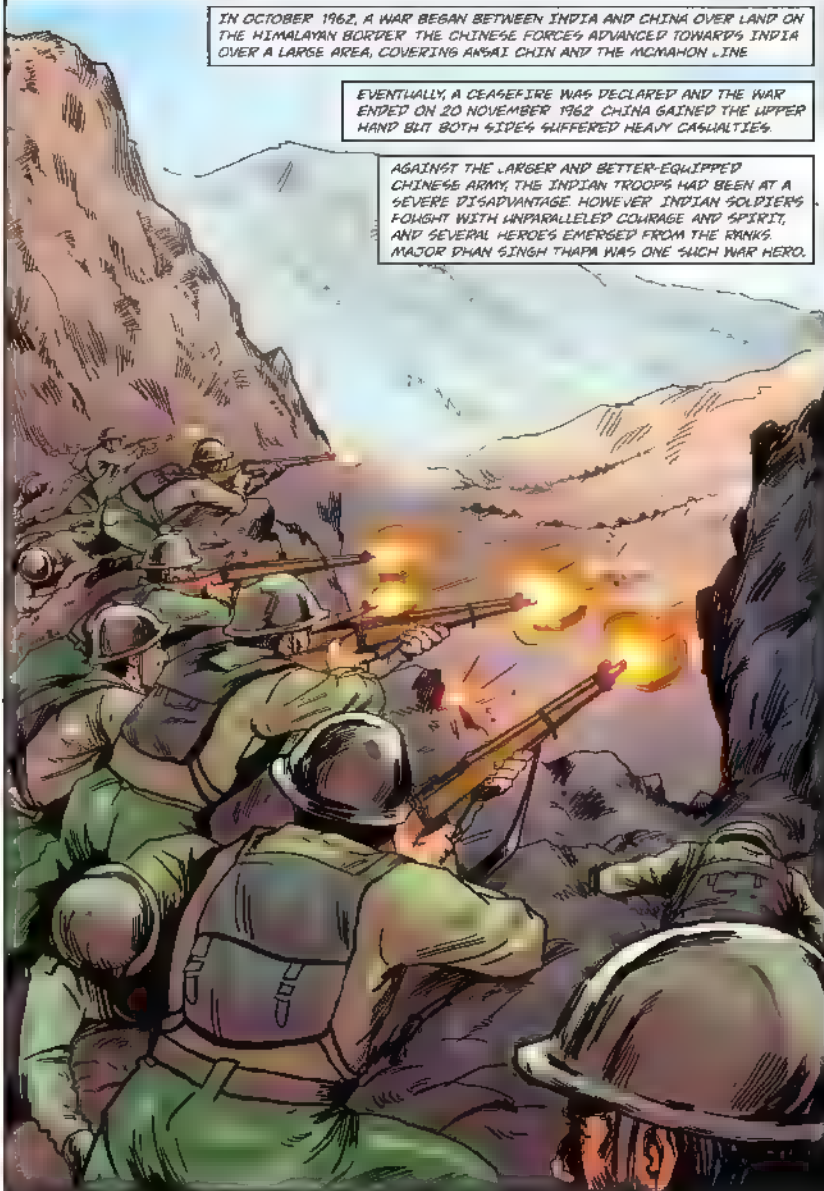
LATER, IN QUARTERS AT ELIZABETHVILLE, CAPTAIN SALARIA SUCCEMBERED TO HIS INJURIES. HIS LEADERSHIP AND COURAGE WERE IN THE BEST TRADITIONS OF THE INDIAN ARMY. FOR THIS ACT OF BRAVE LEADERSHIP HE WAS POSTHUMOUSLY AWARDED THE PARAM VIR CHAKRA.

MAJOR DHAN SINGH THAPA

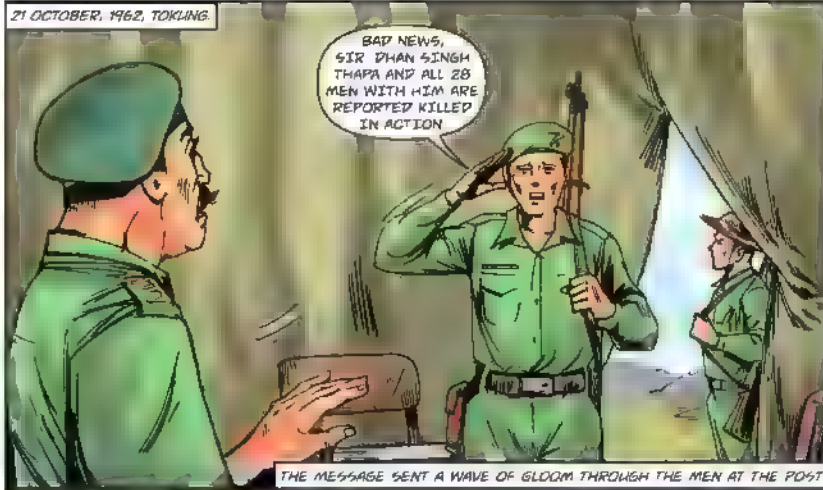
IN OCTOBER 1962, A WAR BEGAN BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA OVER LAND ON THE HIMALAYAN BORDER. THE CHINESE FORCES ADVANCED TOWARDS INDIA OVER A LARGE AREA, COVERING ANSAI CHIN AND THE MCMAHON LINE.

EVENTUALLY, A CEASEFIRE WAS DECLARED AND THE WAR ENDED ON 20 NOVEMBER 1962. CHINA GAINED THE UPPER HAND BUT BOTH SIDES SUFFERED HEAVY CASUALTIES.

AGAINST THE LARGER AND BETTER-EQUIPPED CHINESE ARMY, THE INDIAN TROOPS HAD BEEN AT A SEVERE DISADVANTAGE. HOWEVER INDIAN SOLDIERS FOUGHT WITH UNPARALLELED COURAGE AND SPIRIT, AND SEVERAL HEROES EMERGED FROM THE RANKS. MAJOR DHAN SINGH THAPA WAS ONE SUCH WAR HERO.



21 OCTOBER, 1962, TOLKING



THE MESSAGE SENT A WAVE OF GLOOM THROUGH THE MEN AT THE POST



ON 28 AUGUST, 1949, DHAN SINGH THAPA WAS COMMISSIONED INTO 8TH GORKHA RIFLES, A GORKHA REGIMENT OF THE INDIAN ARMY HE WAS 21 YEARS OLD

WHEN THE INDO-CHINA WAR BEGAN IN 1962, SIRIJAP VALLEY IN LADAKH BECAME AN IMPORTANT STRATEGIC POINT FOR THE INDIAN ARMY PLANS HAD TO BE MADE TO PROTECT IT



I WANT DEFENSIVE OUTPOSTS ALL ALONG THE VALLEY ANY CHINESE ENCROACHMENT MUST BE THWARTED IMMEDIATELY



DEFENDING THE VALLEY, WHICH WAS JUST NORTH OF PANGONG LAKE, WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE CHUSHUL AIRFIELD

SO, IN OCTOBER 1962, THE BATTALION 1/8 GORKHA RIFLES WAS SENT TO ESTABLISH OUTPOSTS IN SIRIJAP VALLEY

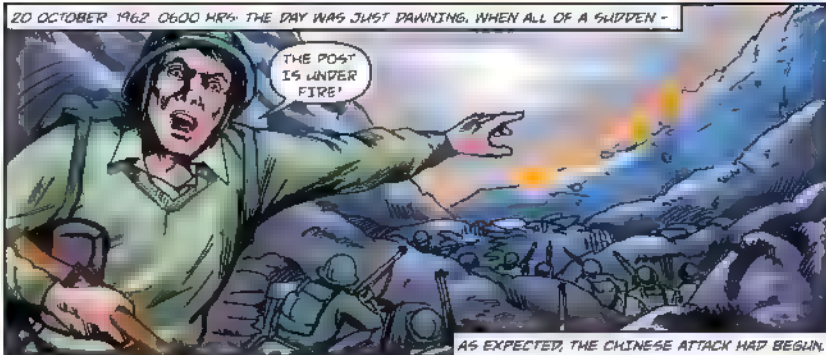


MAJOR THAPA WAS COMMANDING A PLATOON THAT HELD A FORWARD POST, SIRIJAP-1

START DIGGING TRENCHES BOYS. THE CHINESE MAY ATTACK AT ANY MOMENT



20 OCTOBER 1962 0600 HRS- THE DAY WAS JUST DAWNING, WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN -



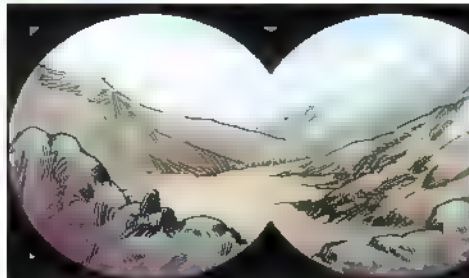
THE POST IS UNDER FIRE!

AS EXPECTED, THE CHINESE ATTACK HAD BEGUN.

THE ASSAULT LASTED TWO AND A HALF HOURS.



HE BEGAN TO SCOPE OUT THE AREA BEYOND THE TREE LINE



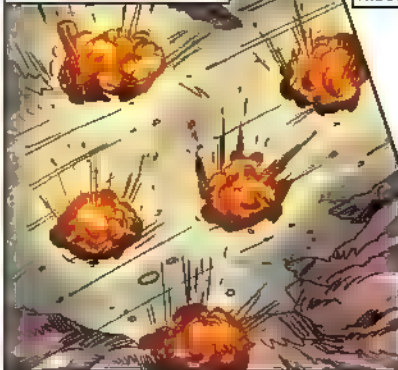
MAJOR THAPA HAD GAUGED CORRECTLY



THIS TIME, THOUGH, THE INDIAN SOLDIERS WERE READY

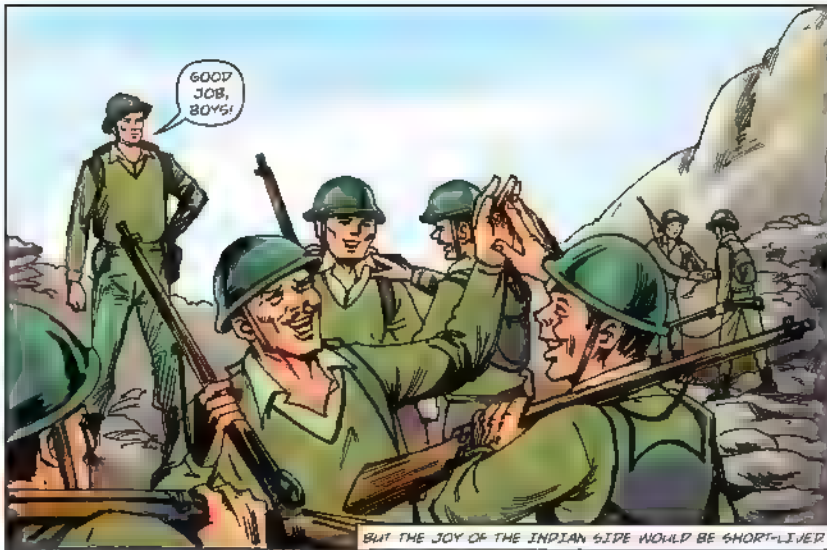


THEY LET LOOSE A COUNTER ATTACK SO STRONG,



THAT THE CHINESE TROOPS SCATTERED.

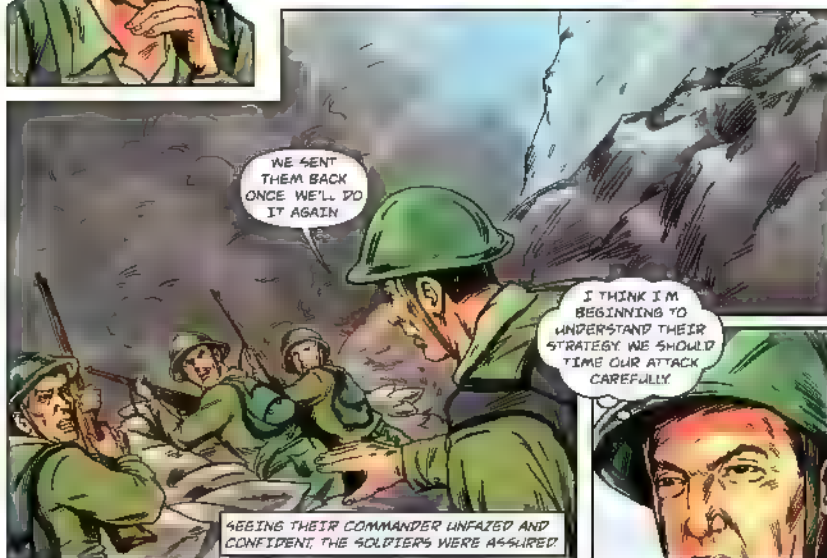
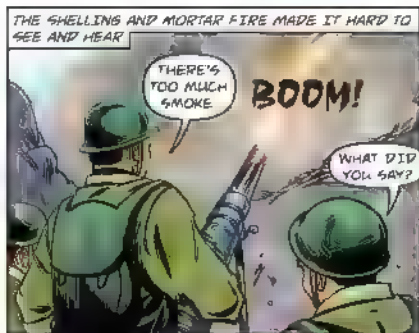




BUT THE JOY OF THE INDIAN SIDE WOULD BE SHORT-LIVED

SUFFERING HEAVY CASUALTIES ONLY
MADE THE CHINESE MORE DETERMINED







THE TOUGH REBUTTAL TOOK THE ENEMY COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE



MAJOR THAPA'S TIMING HAD BEEN SPOT ON. THE ENEMY WAS FORCED TO RETREAT ONCE MORE



THE CHINESE ARMY WAS ANGRY AND FRUSTRATED

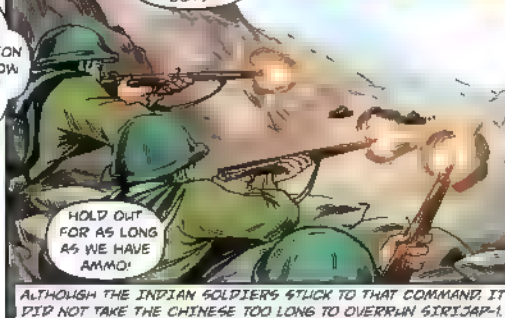


THE CHINESE ARMY HAD TO ENSURE NEVER TO UNDERESTIMATE THEIR ENEMY AGAIN.

SO WHEN THE CHINESE SOLDIERS LAUNCHED A THIRD ATTACK, THEIR INFANTRY WAS NOT ADVANCING ALONE



EVEN AS HE SAID THIS, MAJOR THAPA REALISED THE FRAGILITY OF THEIR POSITION.



ALTHOUGH THE INDIAN SOLDIERS STUCK TO THAT COMMAND, IT DID NOT TAKE THE CHINESE TOO LONG TO OVERRUN SIRIJAP-I.

MAJOR THAPA COULD NOT BEAR TO SEE HIS POST AND HIS MEN GO DOWN

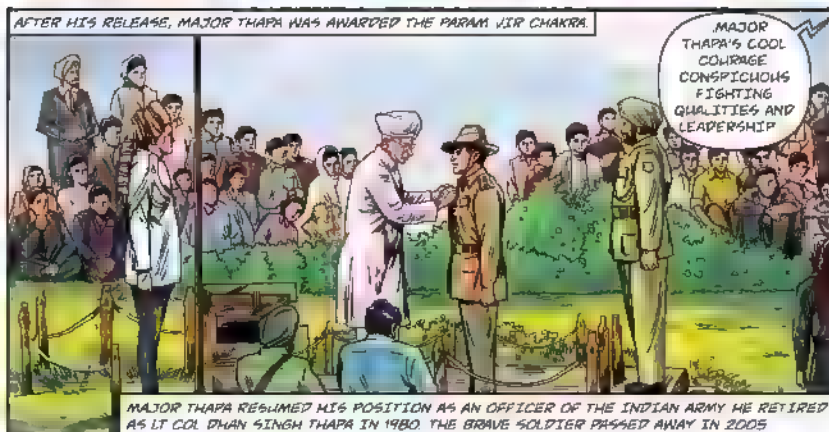
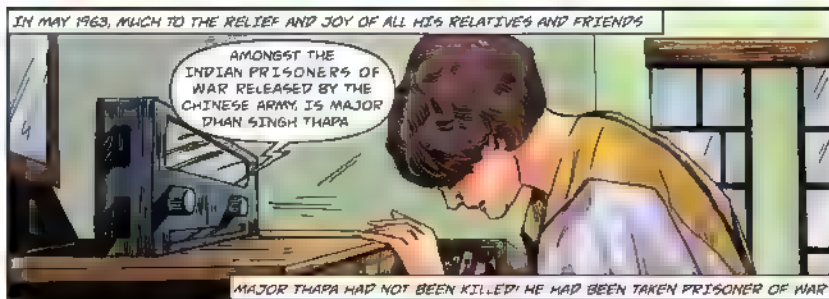
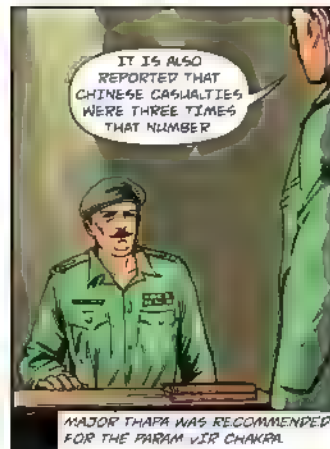
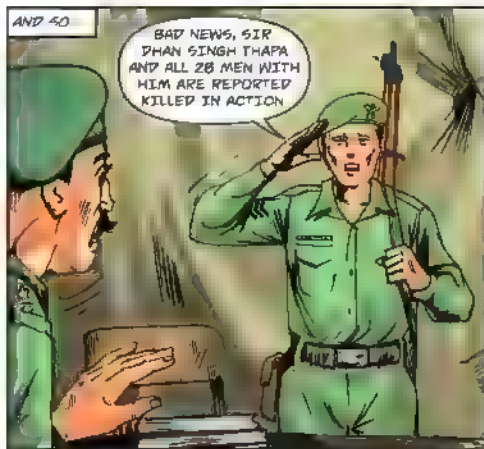


HE STARTED
AN INTENSE
HAND-TO-HAND
COMBAT WITH
SEVERAL
ENEMY
SOLDIERS



HE FOUGHT LONG
AND HARD





SUBEDAR JOGINDER SINGH

IT WAS A COLD WINTER IN 1962 WHEN SUBEDAR JOGINDER SINGH WAS COMMANDING A PLATOON OF 150TH BATTALION IN THE TAWANG SECTOR OF N.E.F.A.*



SIR, OUR TROOPS HAVE DETECTED SOME ACTIVITY ACROSS THE BORDER

WHAT KIND OF ACTIVITY SOLDIER?

EVEN THOUGH THERE HAD BEEN PEACE IN THE REGION, TENSIONS WERE HIGH AS CHINA HAD BEEN STAKING ITS CLAIM OVER CERTAIN AREAS THAT CAME UNDER INDIAN TERRITORY.



IT APPEARS THAT THE CHINESE ARMY IS ASSEMBLING THERE IN HEAVY NUMBERS

THAT CAN'T BE! ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

RECRUITED IN THE ARMY DURING THE 1930s, 42-YEAR-OLD JOGINDER SINGH WAS DUE TO RETIRE BY THE END OF THE YEAR



YOU WERE RIGHT! THE CONCENTRATION OF CHINESE SOLDIERS DOES SEEM TO HAVE INCREASED



JUST A FEW DAYS EARLIER, JOGINDER HAD BEEN SUMMONED BY HIS SENIOR OFFICER

WE HAVE SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES IN OTHER AREAS, BUT WE STILL HAVE CONTROL OVER TAWANG. THAT'S THE SECTOR THE CHINESE WANT MOST!

*NORTH-EAST FRONTIER AGENCY, NOW KNOWN AS THE STATE OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH



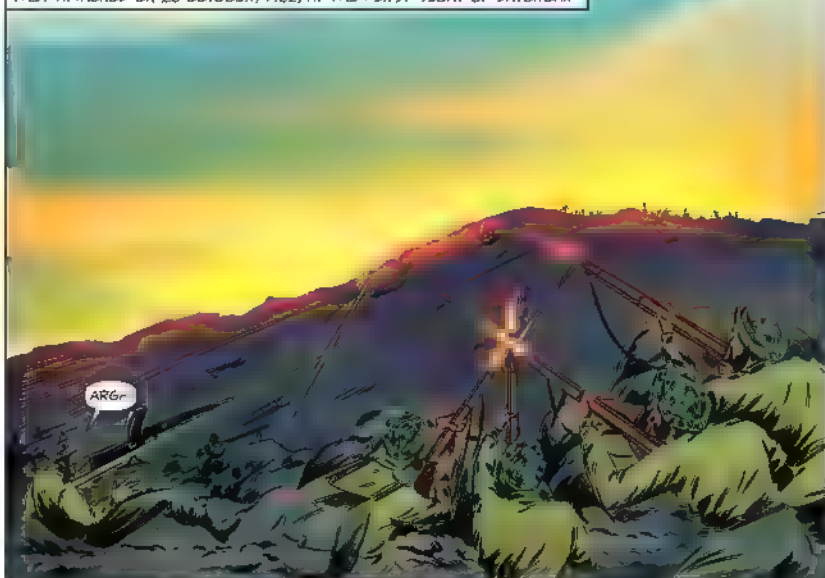
THE PLATOON OF 1 SIKH BATTALION MADE THE TORTUROUS CLIMB UP TO THE RIDGE AT TONGPENG LA, BATTLING THE ELEMENTS AT OVER 4,400M ABOVE SEA LEVEL



ONCE AT THE SITE, JOGINDER STUDIED THE AREA AND FIGURED OUT STRATEGIC POINTS OF DEFENCE FOR HIS TROOPS



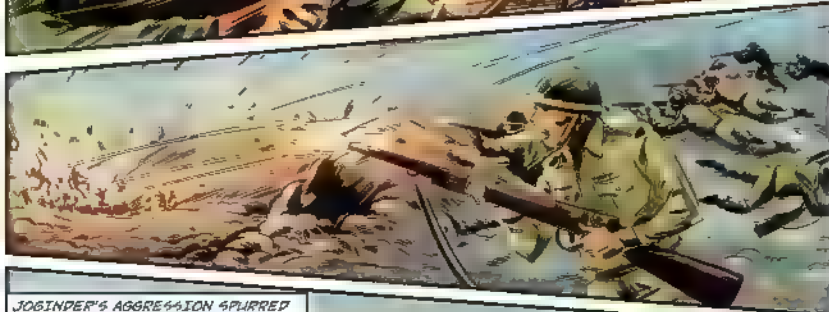
IT DID NOT TAKE LONG FOR THE CHINESE ARMY TO MAKE THEIR MOVE. THEY ATTACKED ON 23 OCTOBER, 1962, AT THE FIRST SIGHT OF DAYBREAK



THE INDIANS WERE HEAVILY OUTNUMBERED. THE CHINESE ATTACKED WITH MORE THAN 200 SOLDIERS IN THE FIRST WAVE. JOGINDER AND HIS MEN NUMBERED LESS THAN 40.



ATTACK! NOT ONE OF THEM SHOULD GET THROUGH!



JOGINDER'S AGGRESSION SPURRED HIS MEN. THEY DROVE BACK THE FIRST WAVE OF THE CHINESE ATTACK.



SOLDIERS, BE ALERT! THEY'RE GOING TO COME BACK!



HE WENT TO EACH SOLDIER
UNDER HIS COMMAND.

STAND YOUR
GROUND WE
MUST NOT
GIVE THEM
AN INCH



THE CHINESE
SOLDIERS ATTACKED
THE MOUNTAINOUS
TERRAIN AGAIN, USING
THE TREES AS COVER

WE HAVE TO MAKE
EACH SHOT COUNT
EVERY BULLET MUST
ACCOUNT FOR ONE
ENEMY SOLDIER!



THE INDIANS
HAD LOST A LOT
OF MEN AND WERE
RUNNING LOW
ON FIREPOWER
AS WELL



THE INDIANS FOUGHT BRAVELY

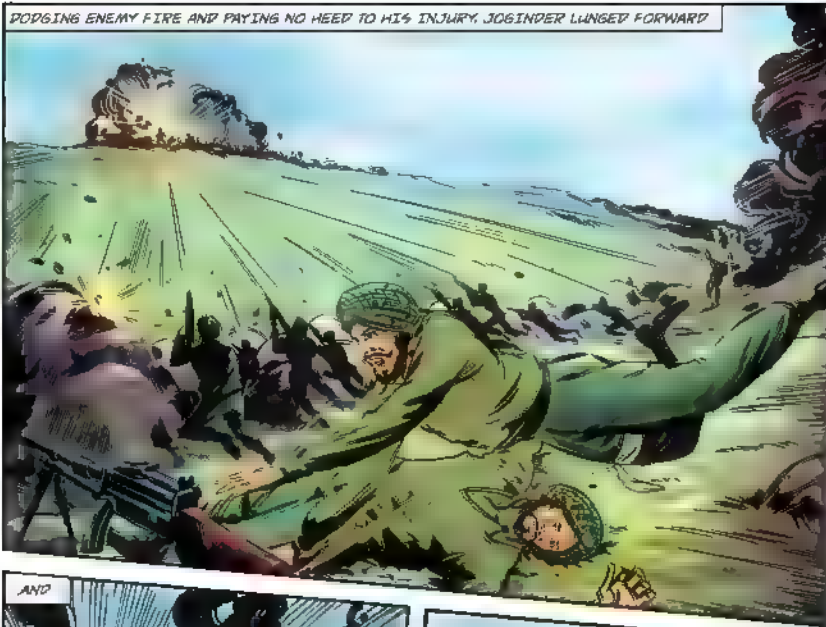
WE CANNOT
LET THEM
THROUGH!





*LIGHT MACHINE GUN

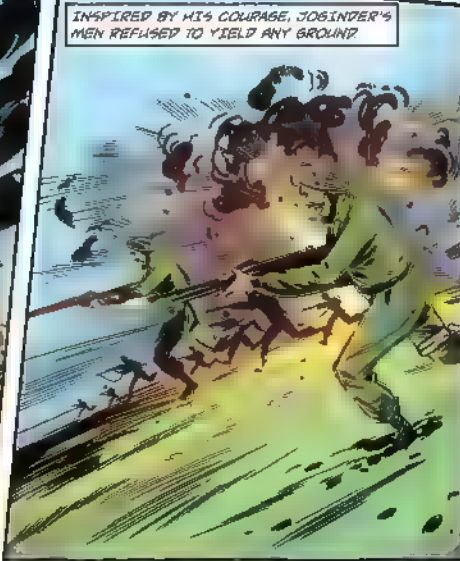
DODGING ENEMY FIRE AND PAYING NO HEED TO HIS INJURY, JOGINDER LUNGED FORWARD



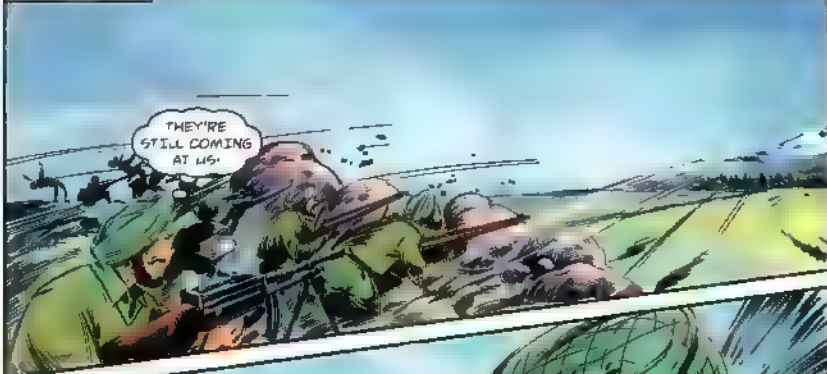
AND



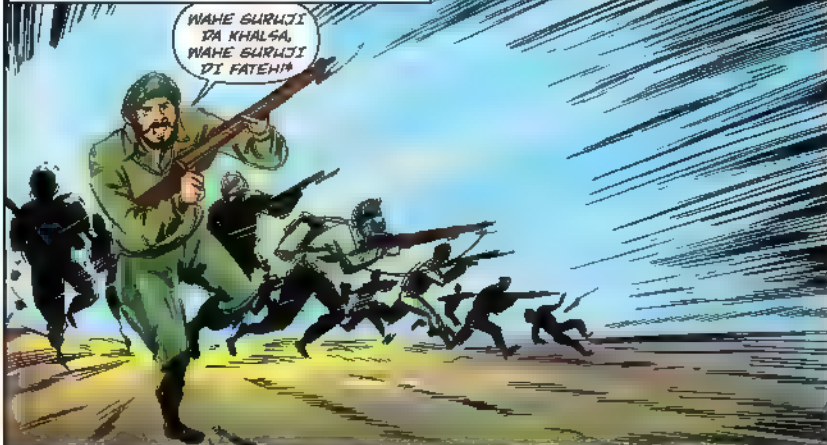
INSPIRED BY HIS COURAGE, JOGINDER'S MEN REFUSED TO YIELD ANY GROUND



BY THE TIME HE RAN OUT OF AMMUNITION, JOGINDER HAD TAKEN OUT 52 ENEMY SOLDIERS BY HIMSELF UNFORTUNATELY -



THE SOLDIERS KNEW WHAT THEY HAD TO DO. THEY FIXED THEIR BAYONETS AND CHARGED AT THE ENEMY



*BATTLE CRY OF THE SIKH REGIMENT

THE CHINESE SOLDIERS OUTNUMBERED THE INDIANS, AND WON THE BATTLE EVENTUALLY BUT NOT BEFORE JOSINDER AND HIS MEN TOOK THE LIVES OF MANY MORE OF THEM THROUGH SHEER WILL AND COURAGE

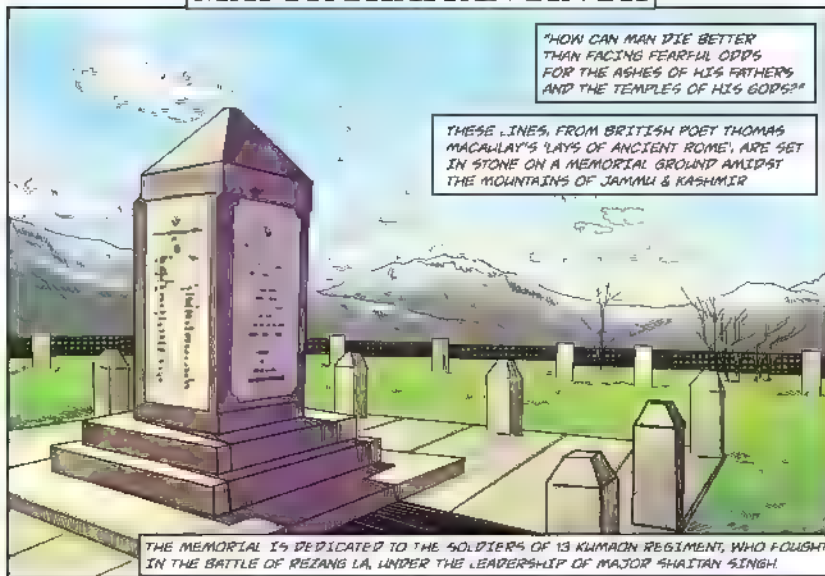


SUBEDAR JOSINDER SINGH WAS TAKEN CAPTIVE AND DIED AS A PRISONER OF WAR. HE WAS AWARDED THE PARAM VIR CHAKRA POSTHUMOUSLY FOR HIS INSPIRING LEADERSHIP AND BRAVERY OF THE HIGHEST ORDER



A STATUE COMMEMORATING THIS BRAVE SOLDIER STANDS AS AN INSPIRATION TO ALL IN HIS HOMETOWN OF MOSA

MAJOR SHAITAN SINGH



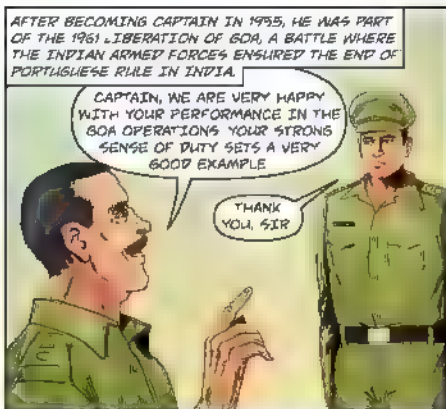
IN 1946, SHAITAN SINGH, ALONG WITH SOME FRIENDS, WAS SELECTED AS A CADET FOR JODHPUR LANCERS.



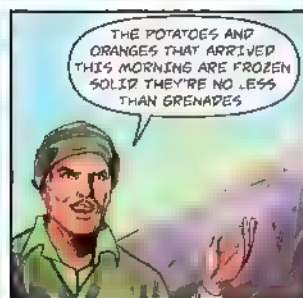
WITH SUCH A STRONG ROLE MODEL SHAITAN SINGH SURPRISED NO ONE WHEN HE BECAME AN EXEMPLARY SOLDIER IN 1949, WHEN MAHARAJA HANWANT SINGH OF JODHPUR ACCEDED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDEPENDENT INDIA, HE WAS SELECTED TO JOIN THE KUMAON REGIMENT OF THE INDIAN ARMY



*ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE



*A PASS NEAR CHUSHUL VALLEY IN LADAKH



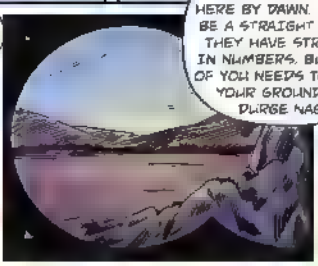
ON THE NIGHT BEFORE
18 NOVEMBER 1962 -

THERE'S
DEFINITELY
SOME MOVEMENT
THERE



SHAITAN SINGH ADDRESSED HIS MEN

THE ENEMY WILL BE
HERE BY DAWN. IT WILL
BE A STRAIGHT ATTACK.
THEY HAVE STRENGTH
IN NUMBERS, BUT EACH
OF YOU NEEDS TO STAND
YOUR GROUND. JAI
PURGE NAGA!



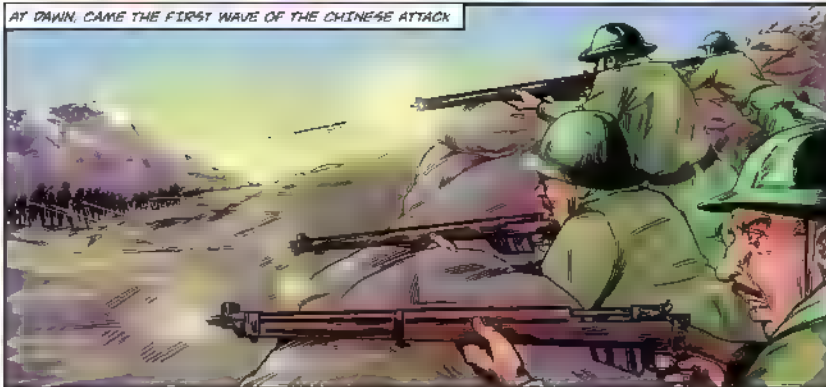
JAI
PURGE
NAGA!

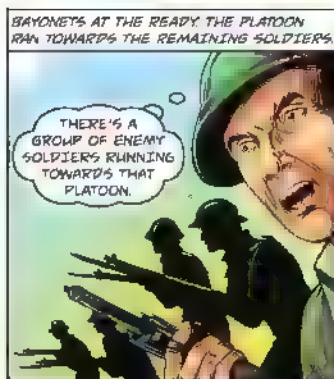


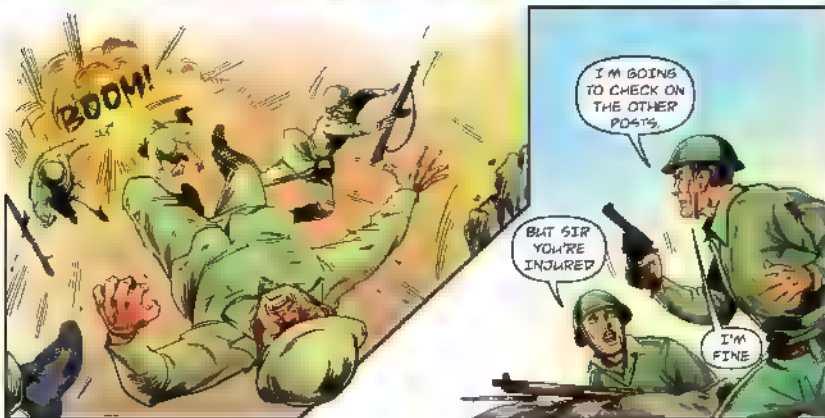
PLATOON COMMANDERS,
SET YOUR MEN READY. ALL FIVE
POSITIONS MUST BE PREPARED FOR
BATTLE. I WILL BE IN THE POSITION
CLOSEST TO THE NALA.



AT DAWN, CAME THE FIRST WAVE OF THE CHINESE ATTACK



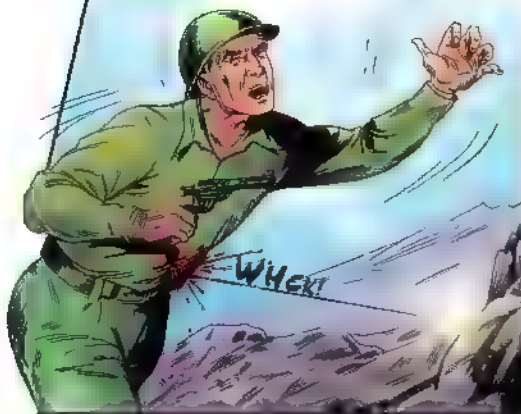




WITH THE LOSS OF EACH OF OUR SOLDIERS, THE ODDS ARE GETTING STACKED HIGHER AGAINST US BUT I MUST MAKE SURE THEY DON'T GET DISHEARTENED.



BUT AS SHAITAN SINGH APPROACHED THE BUNKER -



BY THE TIME THE NEXT CHINESE ATTACK CAME, CHARLIE COMPANY HAD LOST SEVERAL MEN. BUT FOR EVERY INDIAN SOLDIER WHO LOST HIS LIFE, THERE HAD BEEN ALMOST SEVEN CHINESE CASUALTIES.



THE CHINESE WAVE TACTICS WERE AIMED AT INTIMIDATING AND DISINTEGRATING THE INDIANS BY THE SHEER STRENGTH OF THEIR NUMBERS. ALTHOUGH THEY WERE ADVERSELY OUTNUMBERED, THE FEARLESS GROUP OF INDIAN SOLDIERS REFUSED TO YIELD.





REZANG LA WILL SOON BE OVERRUN WITH CHINESE SOLDIERS GO TO THE BASE INFORM THEM OF THE SITUATION HERE AND HOW WE'VE FOUGHT

I'LL STAY BACK I'VE STILL GOT SOME FIGHT LEFT IN ME!



BUT SIR

THAT'S AN ORDER

WITH THAT, SHAITAN SINGH AND THE REST OF HIS MEN TURNED TO FACE THE ENEMY ONCE AGAIN



THIS WAS SHAITAN SINGH'S FINAL STAND HE HAD INSPIRED HIS MEN TO KEEP GOING AGAINST IMPOSSIBLE ODDS EACH OF THEM FOUGHT TILL THE LAST BULLET

FOR PLACING HIS DUTY ABOVE HIS PERSONAL SAFETY AND FOR HIS FEARLESS LEADERSHIP MAJOR SHAITAN SINGH WAS POSTHUMOUSLY AWARDED THE PARAM VIR CHAKRA

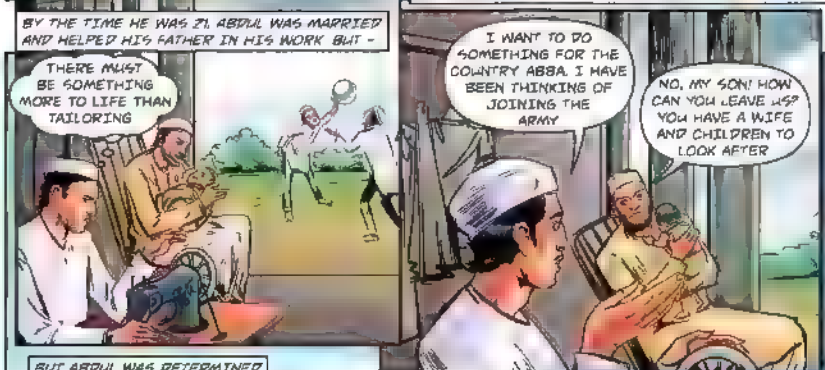
114 INDIAN SOLDIERS DIED THAT DAY BUT THEY TOOK DOWN OVER 1300 ENEMY SOLDIERS, DELIVERING A STAGGERING BLOW TO THE CHINESE ARMY



THREE MONTHS AFTER THE BATTLE OF REZANG LA, THE ARMY SENT A DELEGATION TO RECOVER THE BODIES OF THE BRAVE SOLDIERS. AMIDST THE TRAGIC AFTERMATH OF THE BATTLE, WHAT STRUCK THEM MOST WAS THAT THE INDIAN SOLDIERS HAD ALL DIED FACING THE ENEMY, WEAPONS IN HAND

CQMH* ABDUL HAMID

IT WAS THE YEAR 1947 IN THE VILLAGE OF DHAMPUR IN UTTAR PRADESH, 14-YEAR-OLD ABDUL HAMID WAS PRACTISING SATKA*



*COMPANY QUARTER MASTER HAVILDAR

*AN INDIAN MARTIAL ART IN WHICH A WOODEN STICK IS USED TO SIMULATE SWORD FIGHTING



AFTER HIS TRAINING, ABDUL HAMID JOINED 4TH BATTALION, THE GRENADIERS, AN INFANTRY REGIMENT OF THE INDIAN ARMY HE REMAINED WITH THE SAME BATTALION ALL HIS SERVICE LIFE.

IN 1962, HE TOOK PART IN THE INDO-CHINA WAR AFTER THAT HE WAS PROMOTED TO COMD. DURING THIS PERIOD, ABDUL WAS AWARDED THREE SERVICE MEDALS - THE SAINYA SEVA MEDAL, THE SAMAR SEVA MEDAL AND THE RAKSHA MEDAL.

IN 1965, WAR BROKE OUT BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN. THE COMPANY COMMANDER ADDRESSED THE MEN OF THE BATTALION

INTELLIGENCE REPORTS TELL US THAT THE ENEMY PLANS TO LAUNCH HEAVY ARTILLERY AND TANK ATTACKS ON OUR COMMUNICATION AND SUPPLY ROUTES IN JAMMU & KASHMIR

OUR BATTALION HAS BEEN DETAILED TO MOVE TO CHIMA VILLAGE. THE AREA IS COVERED WITH ONION AND SUGARCANE FIELDS AND IS ON THE KHEM KARAN-BHIKIWIND ROAD

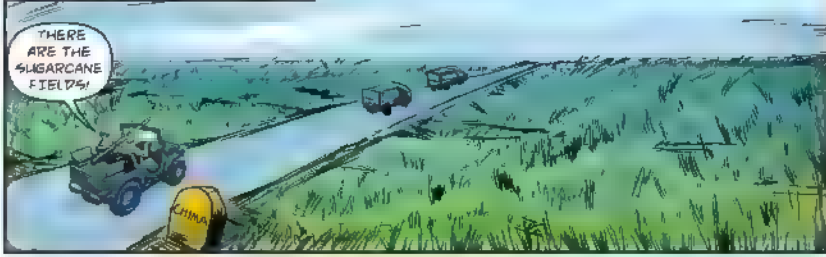
ABDUL HAMID! AS OUR BEST RIFLE SHOT, YOU WILL BE IN CHARGE OF OUR ANTI-TANK CREW. YOU WILL COMMAND A RECOILLESS GUN DETACHMENT

SIR

GET READY TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.

THE BATTALION WAS SOON ON ITS WAY

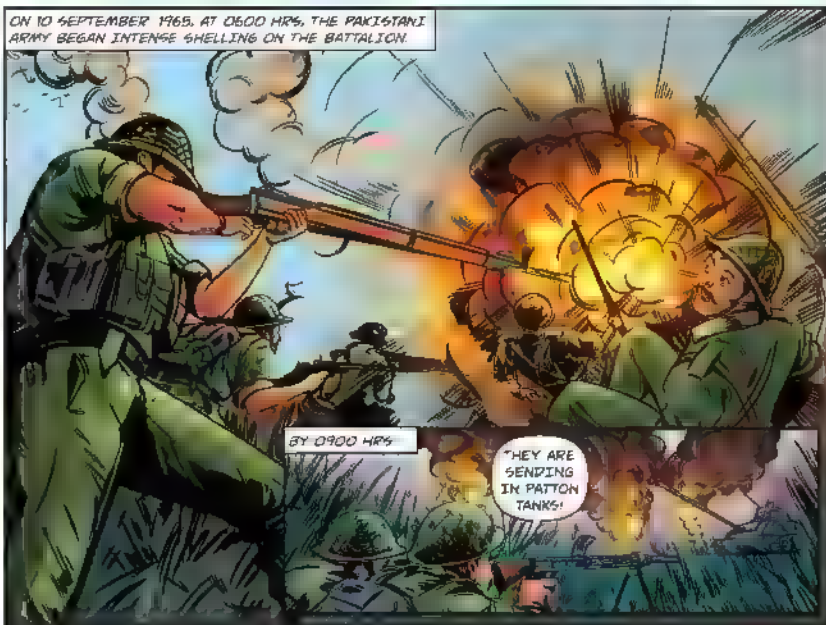
THERE
ARE THE
SUGARCANE
FIELDS!



ON REACHING THEIR POSITION, THE MEN DUG TRENCHES WHILE
HAMID AND HIS CREW CAMOUFLAGED THEIR ANTI TANK JEEP

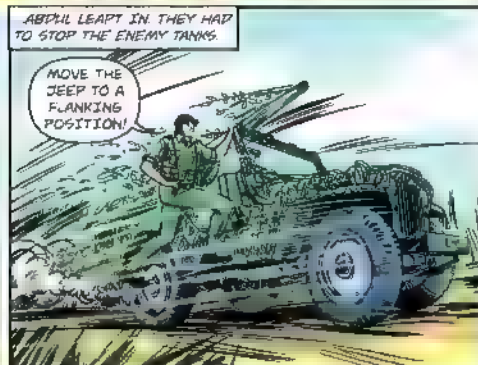
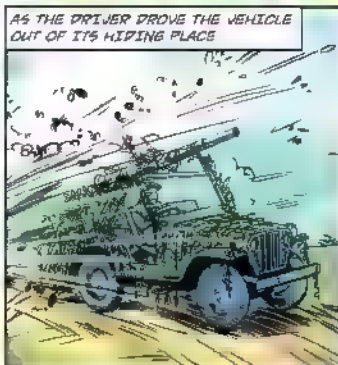
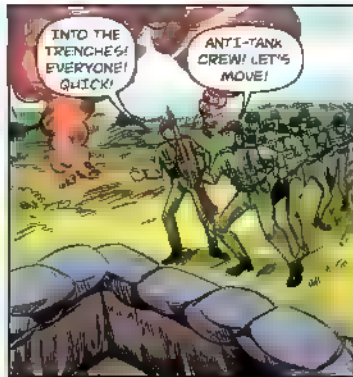


ON 10 SEPTEMBER 1965, AT 0600 HRS, THE PAKISTANI
ARMY BEGAN INTENSE SHELLING ON THE BATTALION

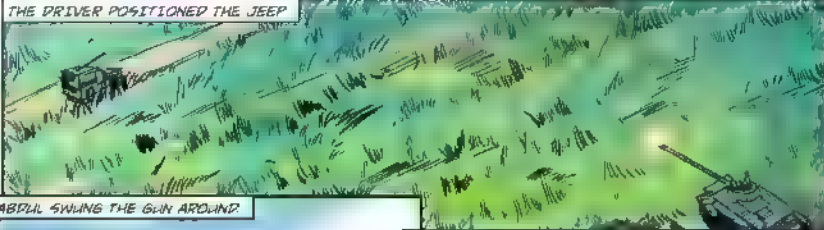


BY 0900 HRS

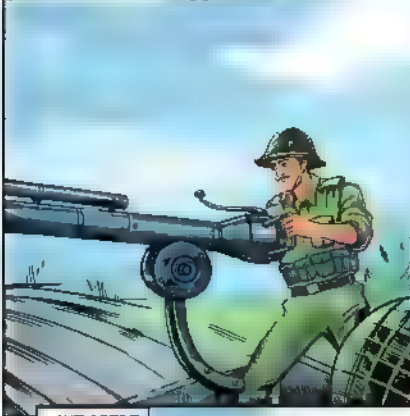
THEY ARE
SENDING
IN PATTON
TANKS!



THE DRIVER POSITIONED THE JEEP



ABDUL SWUNG THE GUN AROUND



AIMED

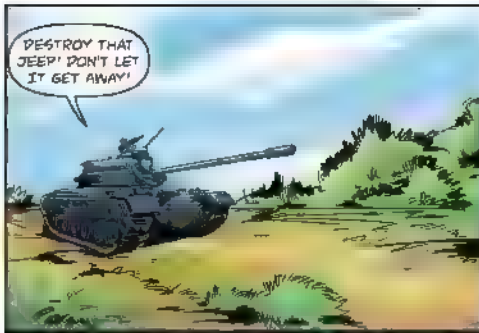


AND FIRED



IT WAS A DIRECT HIT





THE DRIVER SLUMPED FORWARD.



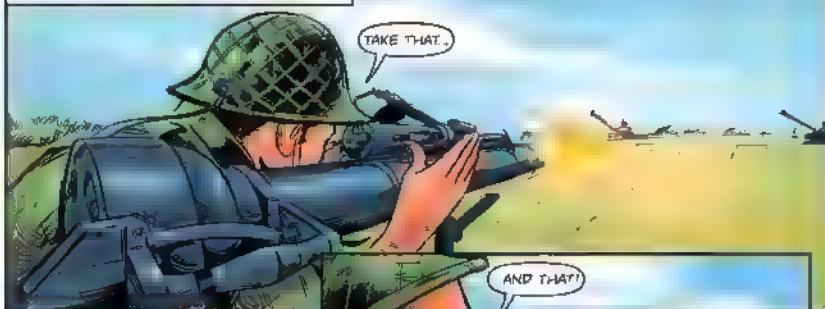
AFTER SEEING TO THE SAFETY OF HIS COMRADE.



ABDUL TURNED HIS SIGHTS ON THE ADVANCING TANKS.



ABDUL HAMID POSITIONED HIS GUN AND -



BY THIS TIME THE ENEMY WAS DETERMINED NOT TO LET HIM GET AWAY



THAT WAS TRUE ABDUL HAMID FACED THE ENEMY ALONE



THAT WAS
CLOSE I AM
LUCKY.



BUT HIS LUCK WAS RUNNING OUT. FOR THE PAKISTANIS FIRED AGAIN. AND -

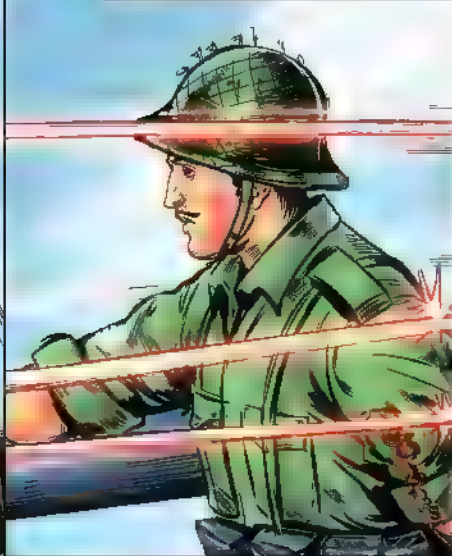


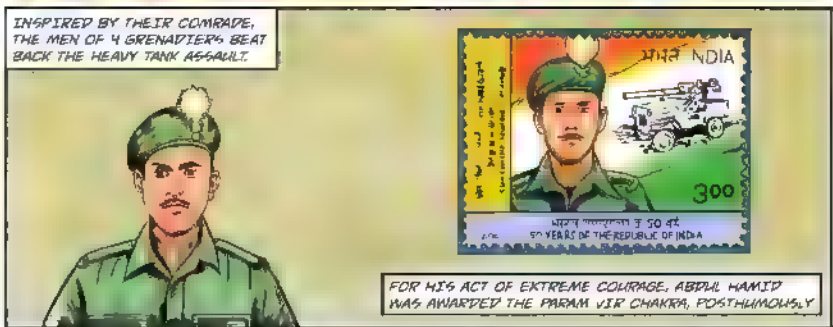
AARSH!

GROAN MY
ARM IS GONE
BUT I HAVE
TO GET ONE
LAST TANK



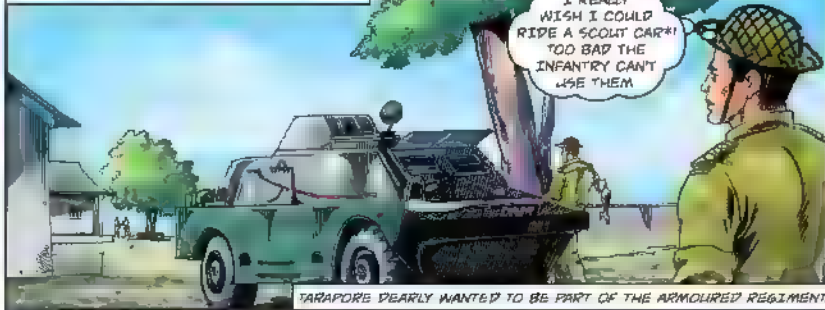
FILLED WITH GRIM DETERMINATION, ABDUL
HAMID AIMED THE GUN ONCE AGAIN.





LT COL ARDESHIR BURZORJI TARAPORE

ON 1 JANUARY, 1942, ARDESHIR BURZORJI TARAPORE WAS COMMISSIONED TO THE 7TH HYDERABAD INFANTRY OF THE HYDERABAD STATE FORCES.

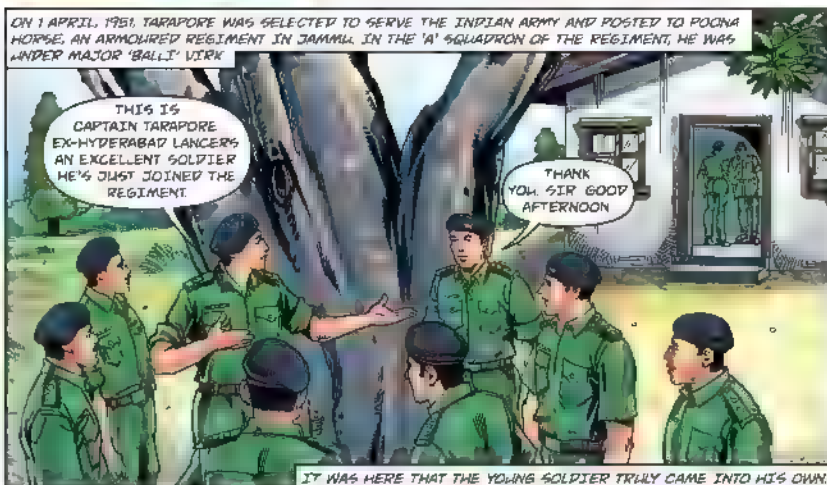
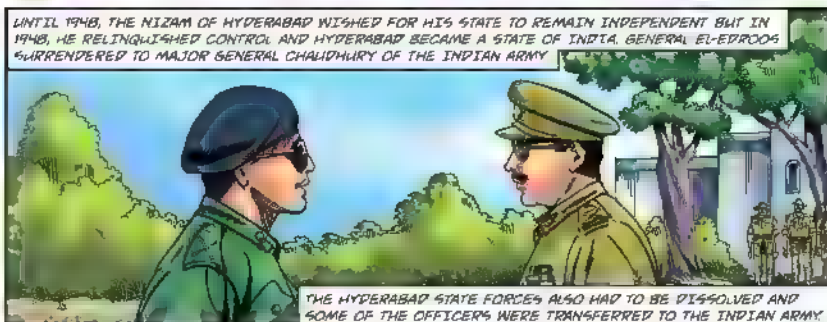


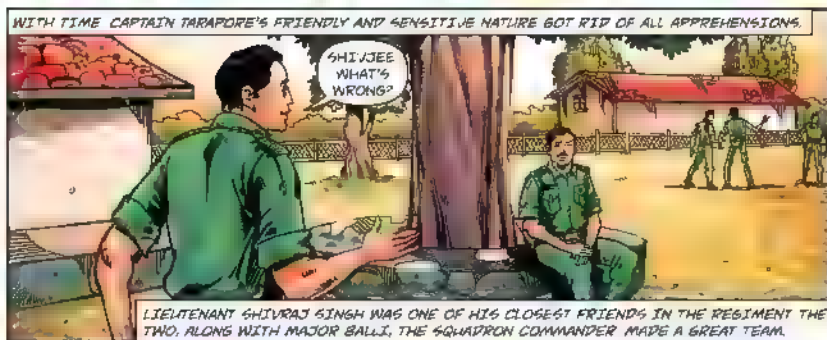
THEN ONE DAY, DURING A TRAINING EXERCISE AT THE GRENADE-THROWING RANGE -



*A FAST MILITARY VEHICLE USED FOR EXPLORING AND SURVEYING









THE REGIMENT WORKED THROUGH THE NIGHT AND WAS ABLE TO MOVE ON SCHEDULE.

*MILITARY ENGINEERING SERVICES

THERE WAS A FUN SIDE TO TARAPORE AS WELL - ONE THAT HIS FRIENDS LOVED



ONE EVENING, AFTER A FEW DRINKS



YOU
NEED A
HAT

A HAT!
YOU'RE
RIGHT
AHA!



HA
HA

IF YOU
WANT A THING
DONE WELL



IN AUGUST, 1965, WAR BROKE OUT BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN. THE FIGHTING WAS INTENSE AND THE ARMED FORCES FULLY INVOLVED. THE FIERCEST TANK BATTLE TOOK PLACE IN PHILLORA, SIALKOT.



TO CAPTURE PHILLORA, THE INDIAN ARMY DECIDED TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK FROM THE SOUTH. ON 11 SEPTEMBER, 1965 -



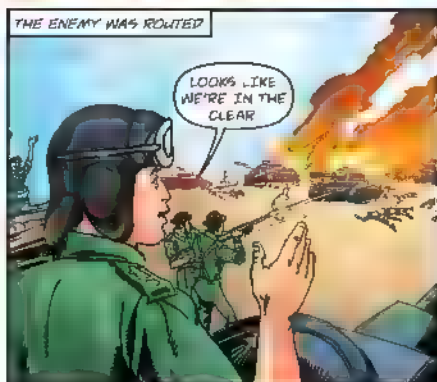
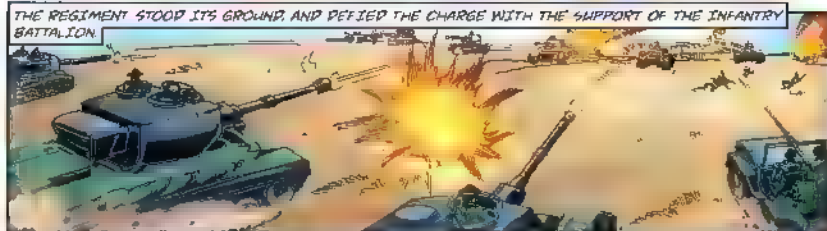
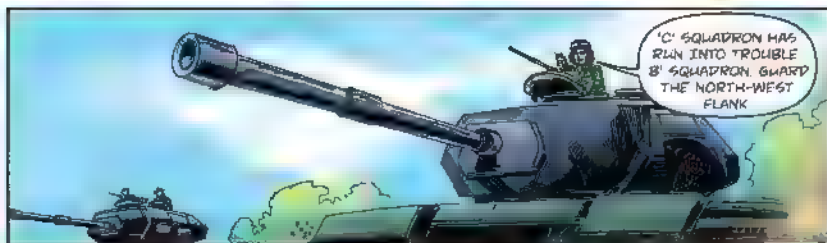
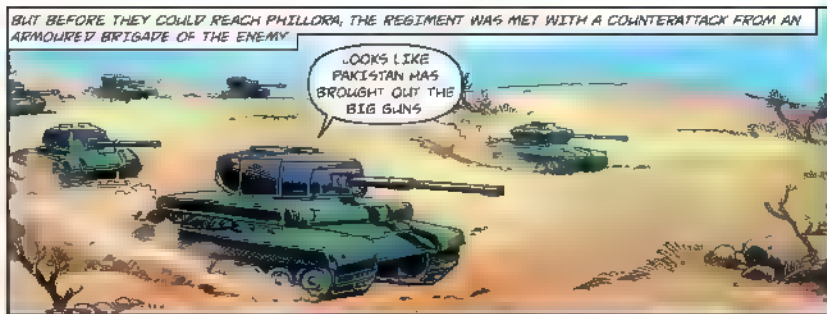
AT THE TIME, LIEUTENANT COLONEL TARAPORE WAS COMMANDING THE 17 HORSE REGIMENT.

THE ATTACK WAS PLANNED -



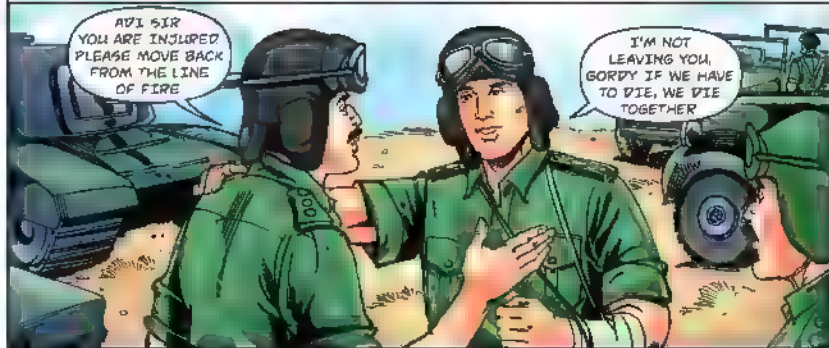
THE 'C' SQUADRON WILL LEAD, FOLLOWED BY THE REGIMENTAL HQ AND THE 'B' SQUADRON. 'A' SQUADRON WILL BRING UP THE REAR.







WHEN THEY HALTED, CAPTAIN GURDIAL SINGH FROM 'A' SQUADRON NOTICED THAT TARAPORE WAS INJURED



AT PHILLORA, THEY FACED MORE RESISTANCE BUT THE INDIAN SIDE WAS ORGANISED AND RUTHLESS AND BY THAT AFTERNOON, PHILLORA HAD BEEN CAPTURED

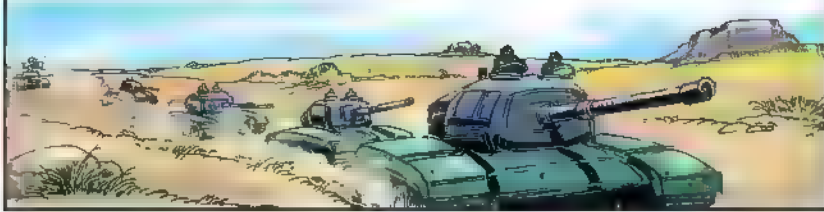




ON 16 SEPTEMBER THE REGIMENT CAPTURED JASSORAN AND BUTUR-DOGRANDI. THEY ESTABLISHED PIVOTS AT THESE PLACES AND WERE SET TO MOVE, WHEN -



TARAPORE MOVED THE TANKS SWIFTLY TO CHAWINDA.



WHERE THEY ENGAGED IN A FIERCE BATTLE WITH A DESPERATE ENEMY

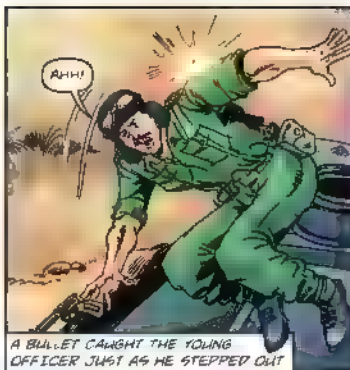


JUST THEN -

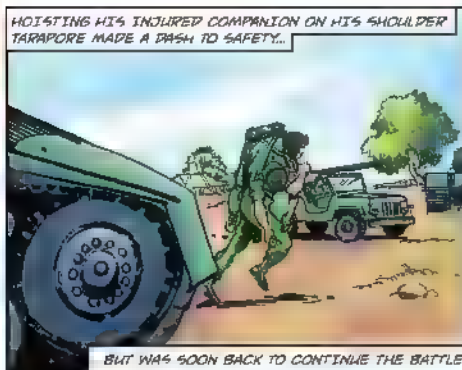


AS TARAPORE JUMPED OUT TO ASSESS THE DAMAGE HIS RADIO OFFICER FOLLOWED HIM





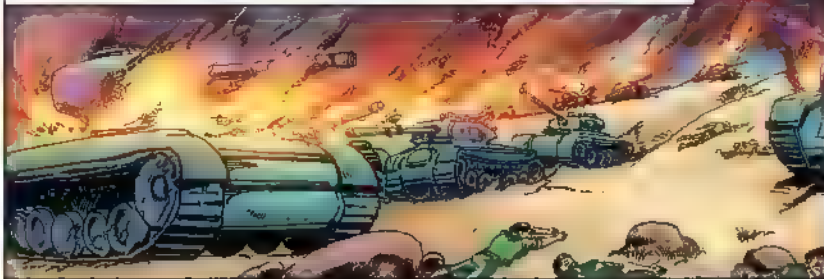
A BULLET CAUGHT THE YOUNG OFFICER JUST AS HE STEPPED OUT



HOISTING HIS INJURED COMPANION ON HIS SHOULDER TARAPORE MADE A DASH TO SAFETY...

BUT WAS SOON BACK TO CONTINUE THE BATTLE

THE BATTLE OF CHAWINRA WAS ONE OF THE LARGEST TANK BATTLES IN WORLD HISTORY AND INDIA HAD THE UPPER HAND 60 PAKISTANI TANKS WERE DECIMATED WHILE INDIA LOST ONLY NINE



BUT ONE OF THESE CASUALTIES WAS LT COL TARAPORE'S TANK



IT RECEIVED A DIRECT HIT

UNDER TARAPORE'S COMMAND, THE POONA HORSE REGIMENT PERFORMED EXCELLENTLY IN THE 1965 WAR



FOR HIS BRAVERY AND EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP LT COL ARPESHIR BUREZORJI TARAPORE WAS POSTHUMOUSLY AWARDED THE PARAM VIR CHAKRA.

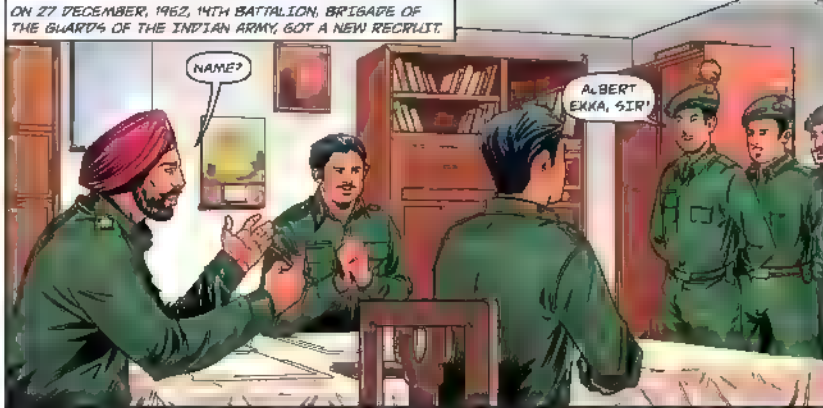


LT COL ARPESHIR TARAPORE DESCENDED FROM RATANJIBA WHO WAS ONE OF THE MILITARY LEADERS UNDER SHIVAJI TO REWARD RATANJIBA FOR HIS LOYALTY AND BRAVERY, SHIVAJI HAD GIVEN HIM A MANSAB* OF 100 VILLAGES. THE PREMIER VILLAGE WAS CALLED TARAPUR AND THAT WAS HOW THE TARAPORE FAMILY NAME CAME INTO BEING

*THE MANSABDARI SYSTEM WAS A SYSTEM OF MILITARY RANKING IN MEDIEVAL INDIA.

LANCE NAIK ALBERT EKKA

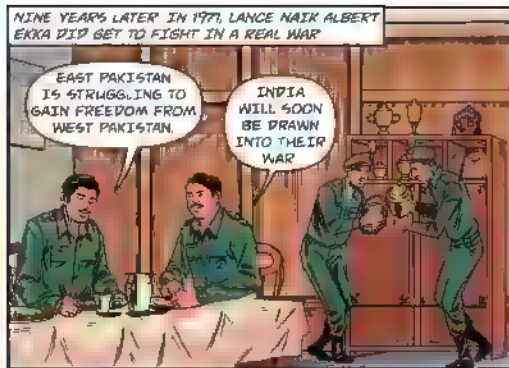
ON 27 DECEMBER, 1962, 14TH BATTALION, BRIGADE OF THE GUARDS OF THE INDIAN ARMY, GOT A NEW RECRUIT.





I CAN'T WAIT FOR TRAINING TO BE A REAL SOLDIER ALBERT!

AND I CAN'T WAIT TO FIGHT IN A REAL WAR!



NINE YEARS LATER IN 1971, LANCE NAIK ALBERT EKKA DID GET TO FIGHT IN A REAL WAR

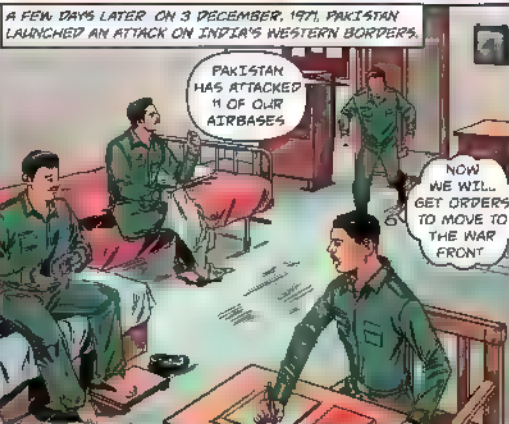
EAST PAKISTAN IS STRUGGLING TO GAIN FREEDOM FROM WEST PAKISTAN

INDIA WILL SOON BE DRAWN INTO THEIR WAR



BUT IT'S NOT OUR WAR WHY SHOULD WE GET INVOLVED IN A DISPUTE BETWEEN OUR NEIGHBOURS?

SOMETIMES WE HAVE TO, WHEN A NEIGHBOUR IS IN TROUBLE



A FEW DAYS LATER ON 3 DECEMBER, 1971, PAKISTAN LAUNCHED AN ATTACK ON INDIA'S WESTERN BORDERS.

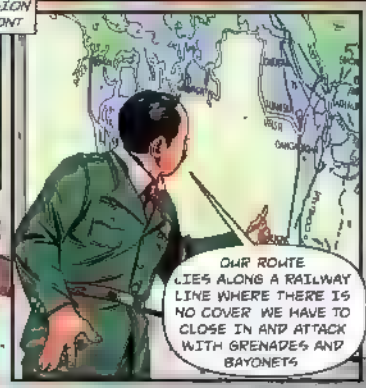
PAKISTAN HAS ATTACKED 11 OF OUR AIRBASES

NOW WE WILL GET ORDERS TO MOVE TO THE WAR FRONT

THE MEN OF 14TH GUARDS WERE GIVEN THEIR FIRST MISSION AND ASKED TO MOVE TO GANGASAGAR* ON THE EASTERN FRONT



WE HAVE TO CAPTURE AKHAJIRA* TO REACH THERE, WE HAVE TO DRIVE OUT THE ENEMY FROM THEIR BUNKERS IN GANGASAGAR



OUR ROUTE LIES ALONG A RAILWAY LINE WHERE THERE IS NO COVER WE HAVE TO CLOSE IN AND ATTACK WITH GRENADES AND BAYONETS

*GANGASAGAR IS IN ASARTALA

*AKHAJIRA IS NOW IN BANGLADESH ON THE BORDER NEAR ASARTALA

ALBERT WAS PART OF THE LEFT FORWARD COMPANY OF THE BATTALION WHICH WENT IN FOR THE FIRST ATTACK



KEEP IN A SINGLE FILE AND BEND LOW

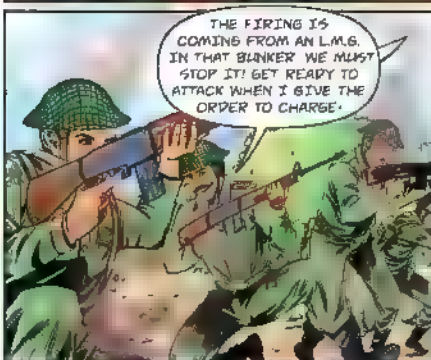
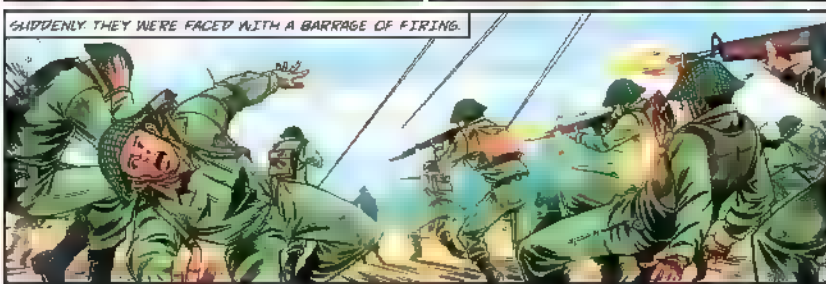
AN ASSAULT GROUP WAS FORMED TO BREAK INTO THE ENEMY LINES. ALBERT WAS PART OF IT



KEEP MOVING

CAREFUL!

SUDDENLY THEY WERE FACED WITH A BARRAGE OF FIRING.



THE FIRING IS COMING FROM AN L.M.G. IN THAT BUNKER WE MUST STOP IT! GET READY TO ATTACK WHEN I GIVE THE ORDER TO CHARGE!

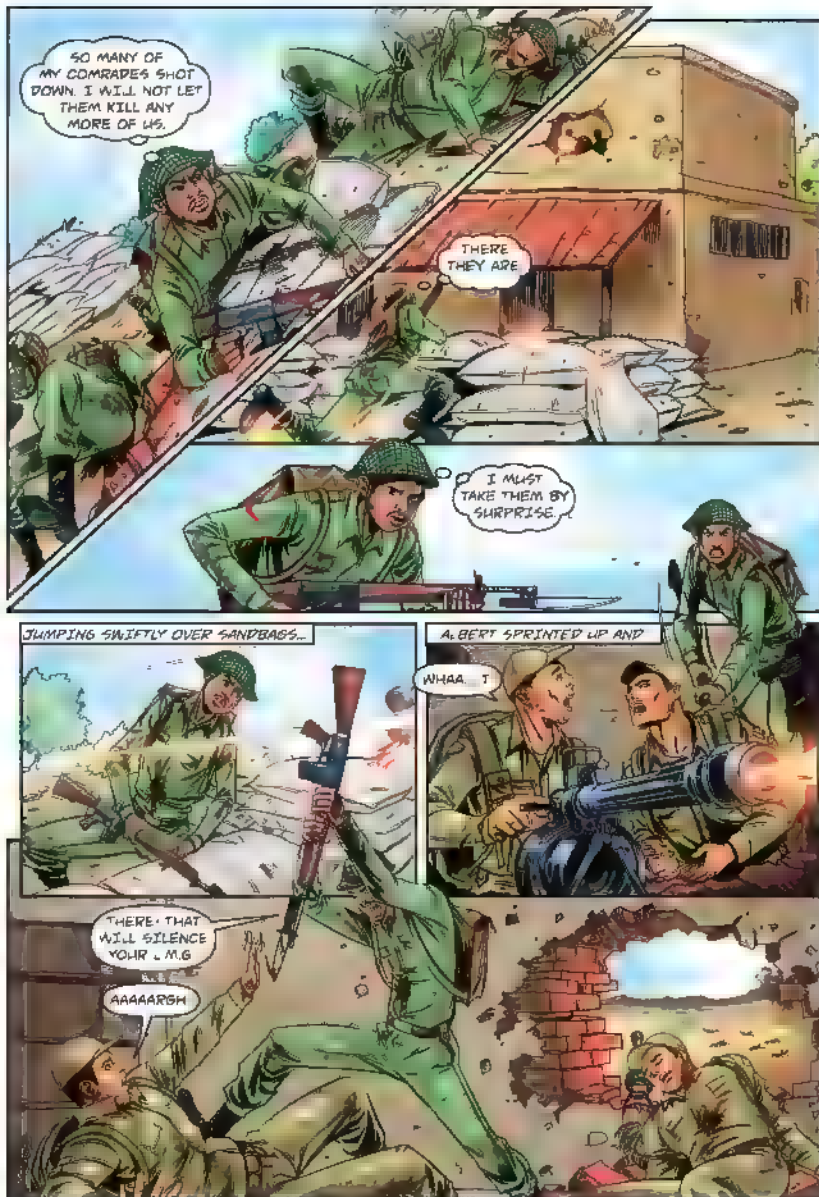
A SOLDIER NEXT TO ALBERT COLLAPSED TO THE GROUND



THE SMOKE . IT IS CHOKING ME!

HANG ON! WE WILL CHARGE IN A MINUTE!





AS HE STUMBLED OUT -

ALBERT! YOU ARE INJURED SO BADLY! I'LL TAKE YOU SOMEWHERE SAFE

NO! I MUST HELP MY COMRADES

THE COMPANY DESTROYED BUNKERS FOR A DISTANCE OF 15KM.

WE ARE ALMOST THROUGH. COME ON!

BUT THEN, A SURPRISE ATTACK!

THAT'S AN M.M.G IT'S ON THE SECOND FLOOR THERE

ALBERT PAINFULLY CRAWLED UP TO THE BUILDING, HIS CLOTHES CAKED WITH BLOOD FROM HIS INJURIES.

JUST A LITTLE MORE AND I WILL BE THERE

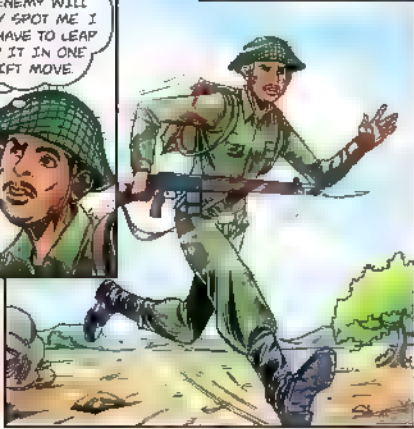
LOOMING UP IN FRONT OF HIM WAS THE COMPOUND WALL OF THE BUILDING.



I CANNOT CLIMB THE WALL. THE ENEMY WILL SURELY SPOT ME. I WILL HAVE TO LEAP OVER IT IN ONE SWIFT MOVE.



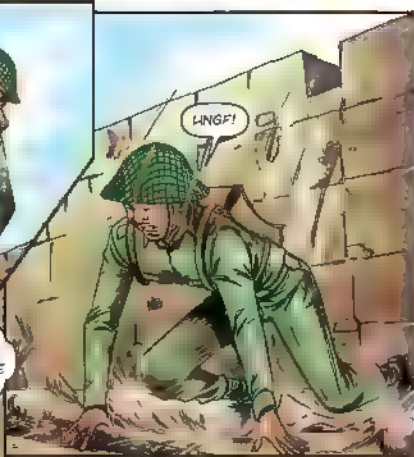
ALBERT MEASURED HIS RUN-UP TO THE WALL AND -



PUSHING HIS WEAKENED BODY, ALBERT DASHED IN.



THEY HAVEN'T SEEN ME YET.



WING!

IN A SWIFT MOTION, HE SILENCED THE
ENEMY SOLDIER'S AND THE DEADLY GUN



WITH THE GUN SILENCED, ALBERT'S COMRADES RAISED A CHEER!

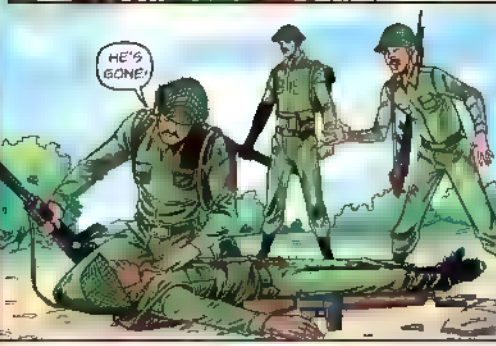


GREAT JOB EKKA
NOW WE CAN GET ON
WITH FORCING THE
ENEMY TO VACATE
AKHAWRA

ALBERT STAGGERED OUT



BUT HIS INJURIES HAD TAKEN A HEAVY TOLL



BARELY TWO WEEKS LATER ON 16 DECEMBER 1971, PAKISTAN SURRENDERED.

ALBERT EKKA DID NOT LIVE TO SEE THE VICTORY OF THE ALLIED FORCES OF INDIA AND BANGLADESH OVER PAKISTAN BUT HIS SIGNIFICANT ROLE HAS BEEN RECOGNISED



IN JANUARY 1972

IN THIS ACTION LANCE NAIK ALBERT EKKA DISPLAYED THE MOST CONSPICUOUS VALOUR AND DETERMINATION



IN 2000, ON OUR 50th REPUBLIC DAY, THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT ISSUED A POSTAL STAMP IN ALBERT'S MEMORY



THIS SON OF RANCHI WAS ALSO HONOURED WHEN HIS STATUE WAS INSTALLED AT A MAJOR INTERSECTION IN THE CITY WHICH WAS THEN NAMED THE ALBERT EKKA CHOWK

FLYING OFFICER NIRMAL JIT SINGH SEKHON

DURING THE 1971 CONFLICT BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN, AN EVENT ALSO KNOWN AS THE BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR, WEST PAKISTAN SENT MILITARY TO CRUSH THE MOVEMENT FOR FREEDOM TAKING PLACE IN EAST PAKISTAN.



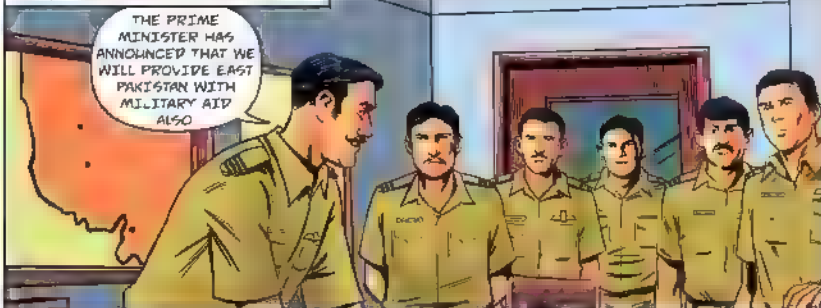
THIS RESULTED IN UNIMAGINABLE DESTRUCTION AND LARGE SCALE MASSACRE OF INNOCENT PEOPLE.

PEOPLE FLEEING FROM EAST PAKISTAN SOUGHT REFUGE IN INDIA.



IN RESPONSE, THE STATE GOVERNMENTS OF WEST BENGAL, BIHAR, MEGHALAYA, ASSAM AND TRIPURA, SET UP REFUGEE CAMPS ALONG THEIR BORDERS.

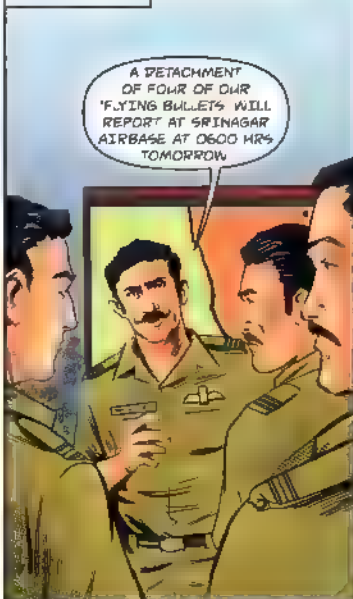
SOON, AT AN AIRBASE IN NORTH INDIA -



THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ANNOUNCED THAT WE WILL PROVIDE EAST PAKISTAN WITH MILITARY AID ALSO.

IN RETALIATION TO THIS MOVE, WEST PAKISTAN LAUNCHED AIR STRIKES ON ELEVEN INDIAN AIRBASES IN NORTH WESTERN INDIA ON 3 DECEMBER. THIS BLEW INTO A FULL-SCALE WAR BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN THAT ENDED WITH PAKISTAN'S UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER ON 16 DECEMBER, 1971.

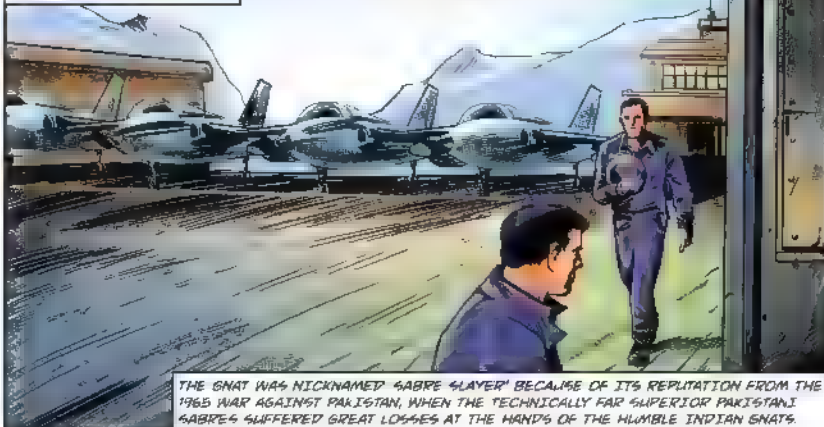
NO 13 SQUADRON OF THE INDIAN AIR FORCE, CALLED 'FLYING BULLETS', WAS CHARGED WITH THE DEFENCE OF THE KASHMIR VALLEY.



BECAUSE OF AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT MADE IN 1948, DEFENCE AIRCRAFT WERE NOT ALLOWED TO BE STATIONED AT SRINAGAR SO WHEN THE FIGHTER AIRCRAFT MOVED THERE IN 1971, IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THE AIRCREW AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL WERE DEALING WITH THE ROUGH TERRAIN AND COLD CLIMATE OF KASHMIR



THE 'FLYING BULLETS' DETACHMENT COMPRISED EIGHT PILOTS, 78 TECHNICAL AND SUPPORT STAFF, BESIDES FOUR FOLLAND GNATS. A LIGHT SUBSONIC FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, THE GNAT WAS DEVELOPED FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM'S ROYAL AIR FORCE AND INDUCTED INTO THE INDIAN AIR FORCE IN 1958



THE GNAT WAS NICKNAMED 'SABRE SLAYER' BECAUSE OF ITS REPUTATION FROM THE 1965 WAR AGAINST PAKISTAN, WHEN THE TECHNICALLY FAR SUPERIOR PAKISTANI SABRES SUFFERED GREAT LOSSES AT THE HANDS OF THE HUMBLE INDIAN GNATS.

IN DECEMBER, 1971, PAKISTAN PLANNED A MISSION TO ATTACK SRINAGAR AIRBASE WITH A WAVE OF F86 SABRES.



EACH SABRE WAS EQUIPPED WITH TWO 500LB* BOMBS AND 12 7MM GUNS.

AT PESHAWAR AIRBASE OF THE PAKISTAN AIR FORCE (PAF) -



CHANGAZI IS THE LEADER OF THE MISSION. CHANGAZI GO AHEAD.

DOTANI, ANDRABI, MIR AND I WILL FLY AT DAWN. THE AIM IS TO POCKMARK THE SRINAGAR AIRFIELD WITH CRATERS. BAIG AND YUSUFZAI WILL...

THE PLAN WAS MADE AND ROLES ASSIGNED.

AND SO, ON 14 DECEMBER A STRIKE FORCE OF FOUR SABRES OF PAF'S 26 SQUADRON, NAMED 'BLACK SPIDERS' FLEW EAST TOWARD'S SRINAGAR.



AS THEY APPROACHED FIR PANJAL AN INDIAN OBSERVATION POST DETECTED THEM.



SIR I CAN SEE FOUR SPECKS IN THE SKY COMING OUR WAY.

REPORT TO BASE IMMEDIATELY

YES, YES! THESE ARE FOUR SABRE JETS.

*1KG = 2.2LB



THE PILOTS AT O.R.P* WERE FLT LT GHUMAN AND FG OFFR SEKHON

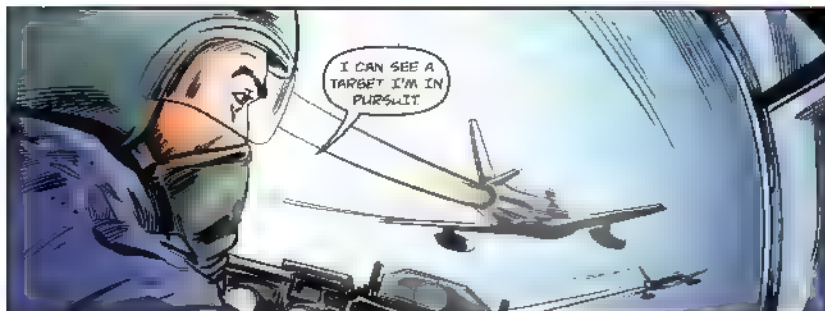
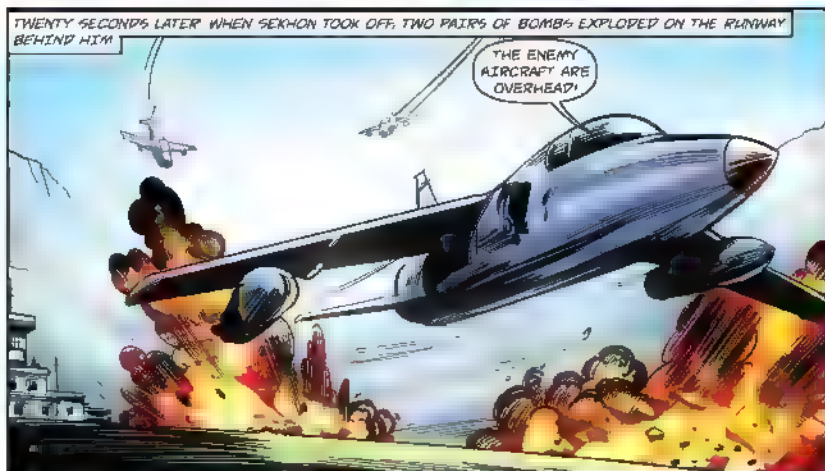


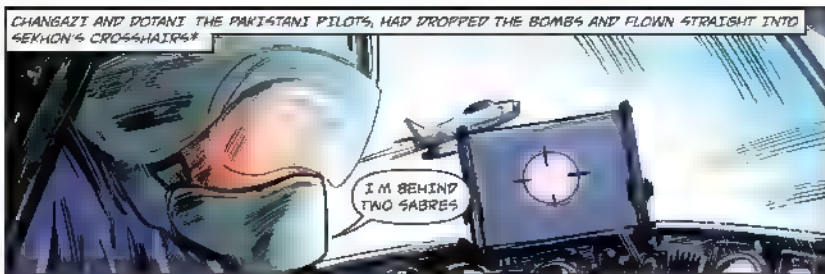
WITHIN SECONDS, BOTH THE OFFICERS WERE READY FOR TAKE-OFF BUT AIR DEFENCE HAD STARTED FIRING ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS AT THE INTRUDERS



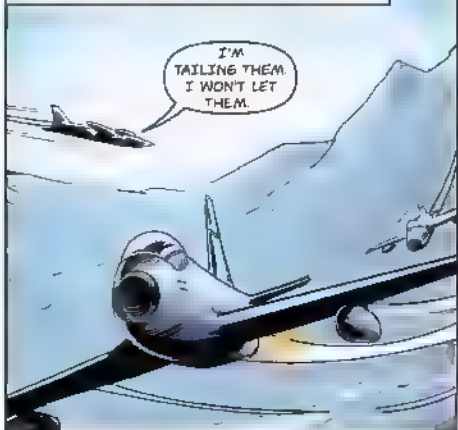
*COMMAND GIVEN TO LAUNCH AIRCRAFT FOR COMBAT
*OPERATION READINESS PLATFORM

**BROTHER AND GMAN WERE NICKNAMES GIVEN TO SEKHON AND GHUMAN RESPECTIVELY.



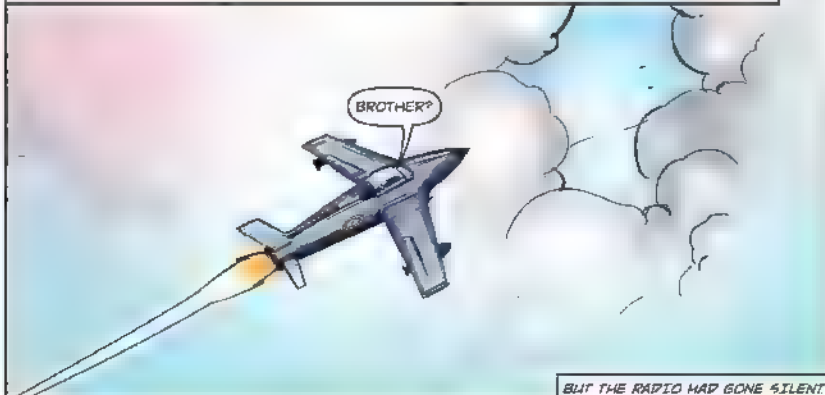


THE SABRES SPED UP BUT SEKHON SWIFTLY MANOEUVRED HIS GNAT AND MANAGED TO STAY ON THEIR TAIL

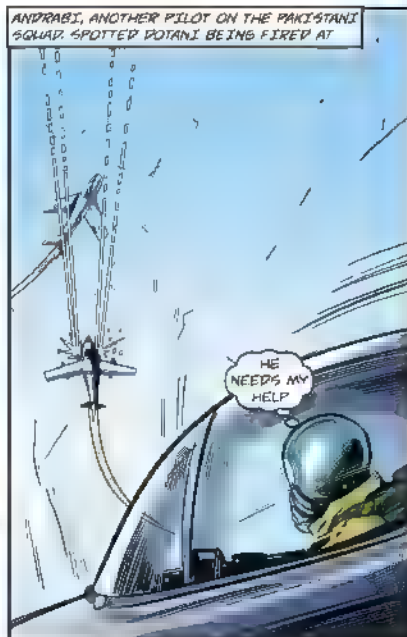
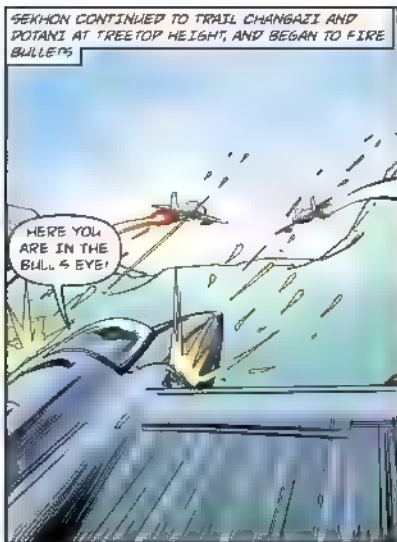


GHUMAN HAD LOST SIGHT OF THE SABRES AND HIS FELLOW GNAT BECAUSE OF THE THICK HAZE

HE DECIDED TO DO AN OVERHEAD LAR TO PROVIDE SUPPORT THE MOMENT HE COULD SPOT SEKHON



*THE POINT IN AN OPTICAL INSTRUMENT WHICH CENTRES THE TARGET



*DROP TANKS ARE RESERVE TANKS OF FUEL LOCATED EXTERNALLY ON AN AIRCRAFT'S BELLY WHEN DROPPED, THEY SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE WEIGHT ON THE AIRCRAFT, GIVING IT A BURST OF EXTRA SPEED

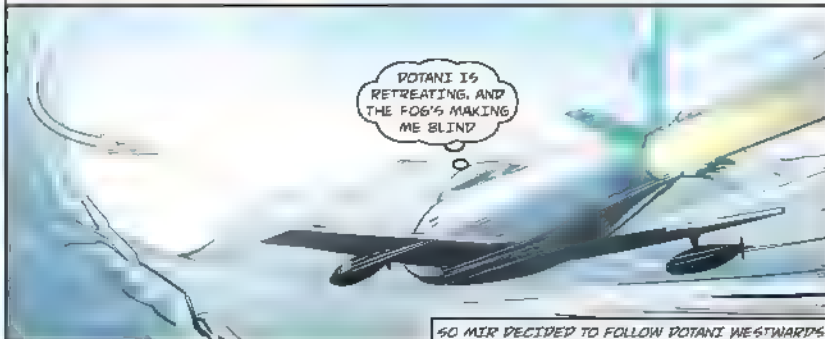
ANDRABI FLEW TOWARDS SEKHON
AND DOTANI

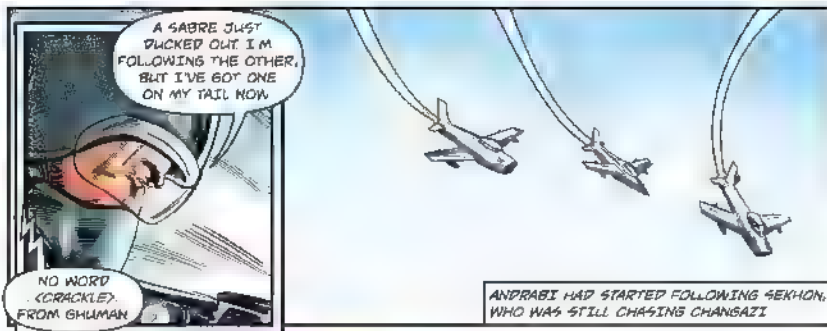


DOTANI BROKE HARD, NARROWLY MISSING A COLLISION



THE PILOT OF THE FOURTH SABRE OF THE GROHR MIR, HAD BEEN UNABLE TO LOCATE HIS FELLOW PILOTS





THE DOGFIGHT* CONTINUED. SEKHON SANDWICHED BETWEEN THE TWO.



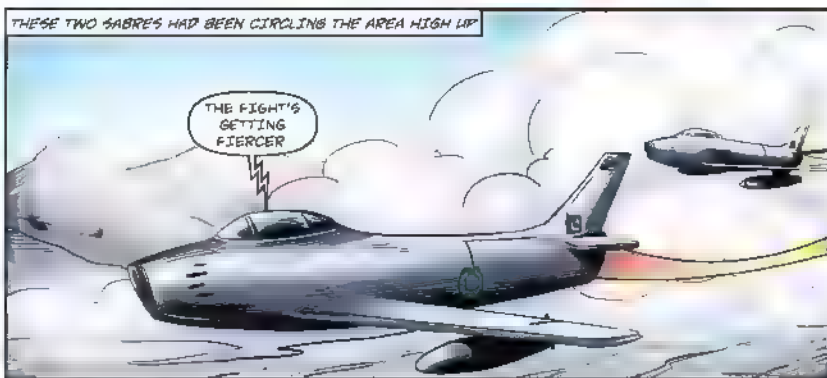
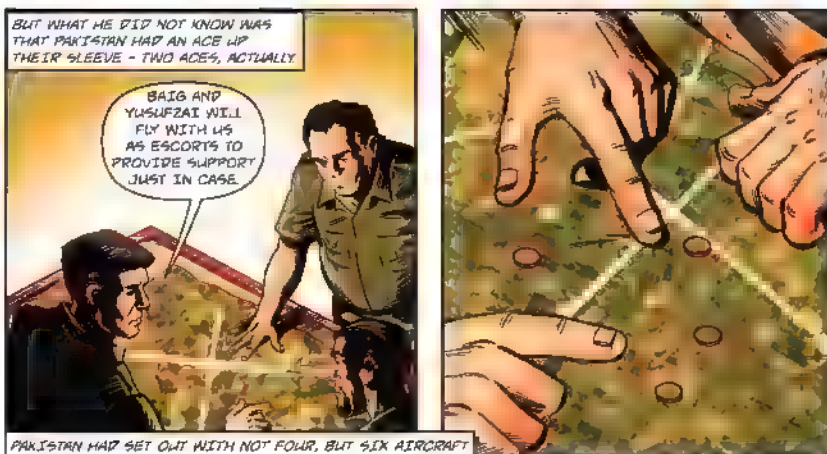
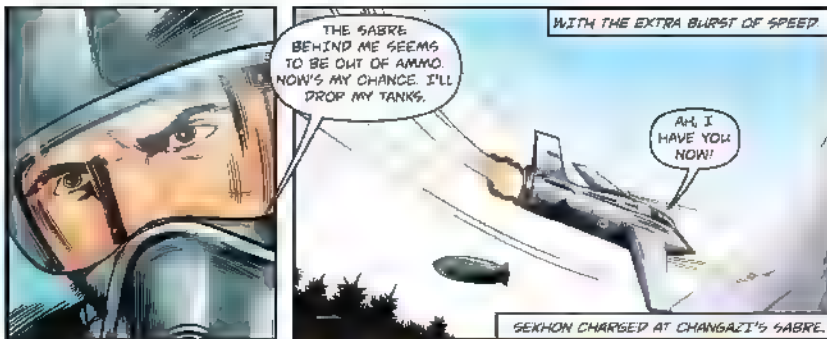
EVEN THOUGH SEKHON AND THE SABRE'S WERE ONLY ABOUT 100 METRES ABOVE THE GROUND, THEY COULD NOT BE SEEN. FLYING OFFICER YOGINDRA SINGH (YOGI), WAS THE COMBAT AIR PATROL (CAP) CONTROLLER AT THE BASE.

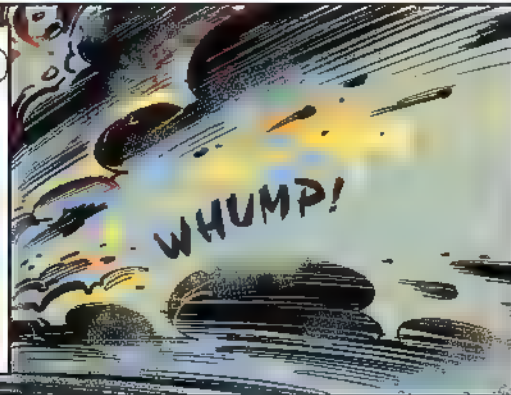
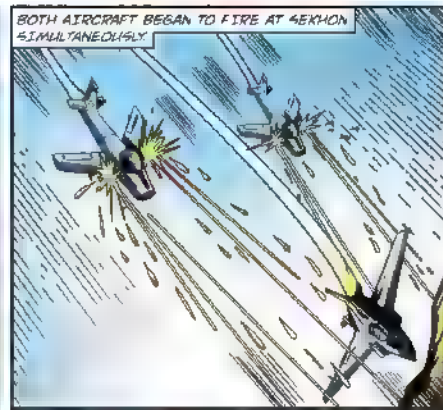
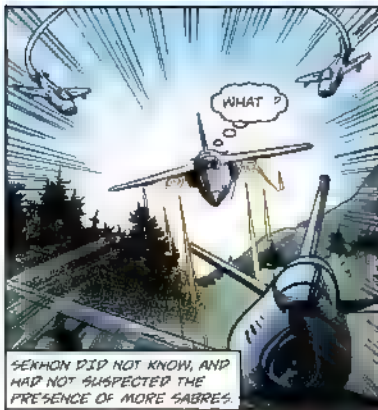
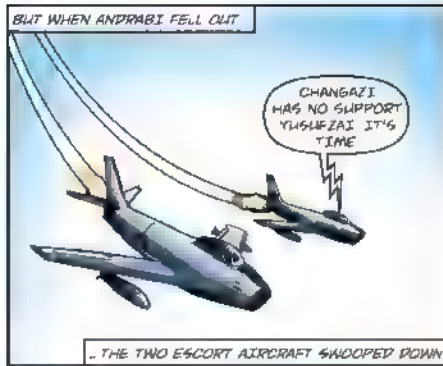
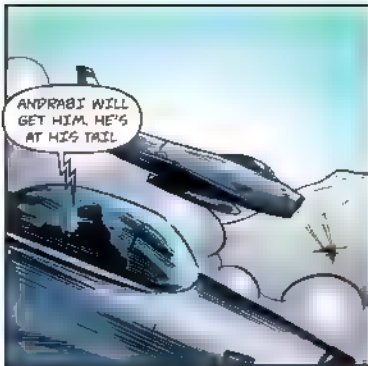


*DOGFIGHT IS THE MILITARY TERM FOR CLOSE QUARTER COMBAT BETWEEN FIGHTER AIRCRAFT



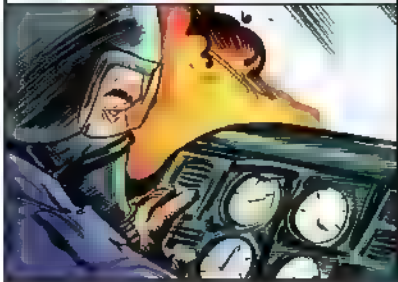
MEMBERS OF A SQUAD IDENTIFY THEMSELVES BY NUMBER. WINCHESTER IS A MILITARY TERM USED WHEN ONE IS OUT OF AMMUNITION



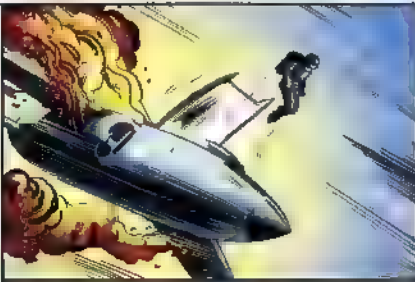




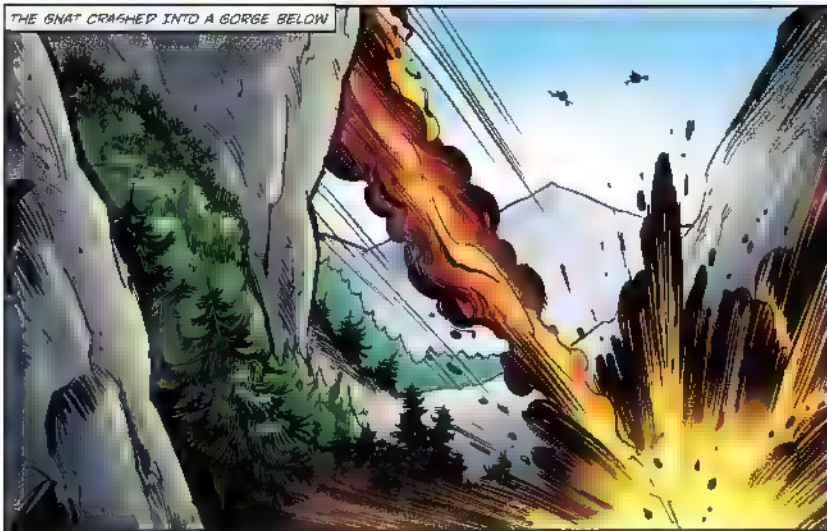
SEEING NO WAY OF RECOVERING HIS AIRCRAFT



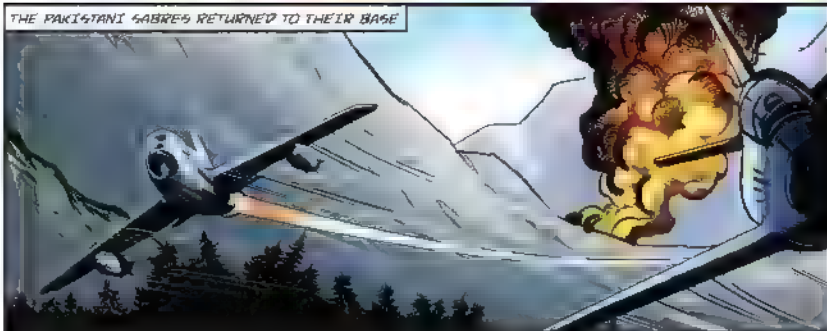
SEKHON PULLED THE HANDLE ON HIS EJECTION SEAT

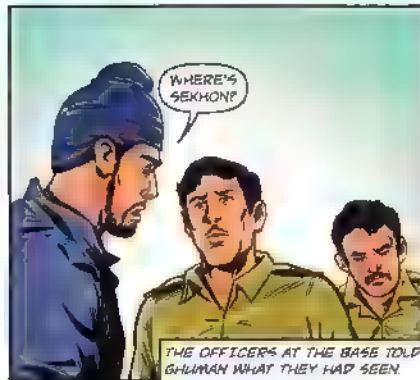
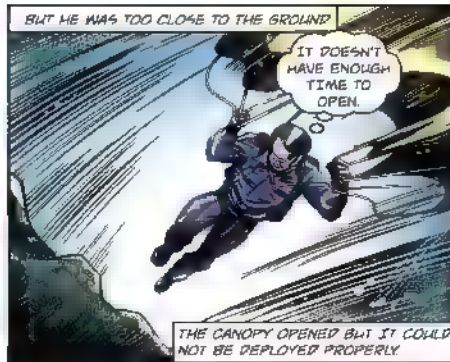
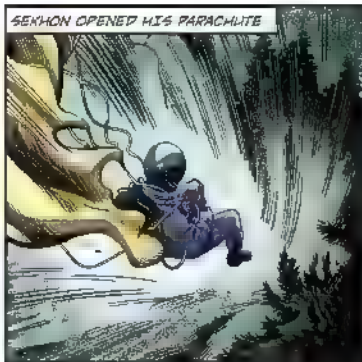


THE GNAT CRASHED INTO A GORGE BELOW



THE PAKISTANI SABRES RETURNED TO THEIR BASE





2/LT ARUN KHETARPAL

ARUN KHETARPAL WAS BORN INTO A FAMILY OF SOLDIERS. THE STRAPPING YOUNG BOY LOOKED EVERY INCH AN ARMY MAN



SO, WHEN HE JOINED THE N.D.A.* IN 1967, IT SEEMED LIKE THE PATH HE WAS MEANT TO TAKE

IN 1970, HE MOVED TO THE INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY AND PASSED OUT AS A COMMISSIONED OFFICER IN 1971.



HE WAS INDUCTED INTO 17 POONA HORSE, AN ARMOURER REGIMENT.

JUST SIX MONTHS LATER, IN OCTOBER, 1971 -



THE CONFLICT BETWEEN WEST PAKISTAN AND EAST PAKISTAN WAS INCREASING INDIA HAD DECIDED TO PROVIDE MILITARY SUPPORT TO EAST PAKISTAN.



*NATIONAL DEFENCE ACADEMY

AS A PREEMPTIVE MEASURE, THE INDIAN ARMY SENT MEN TO INDIA'S WESTERN BORDER

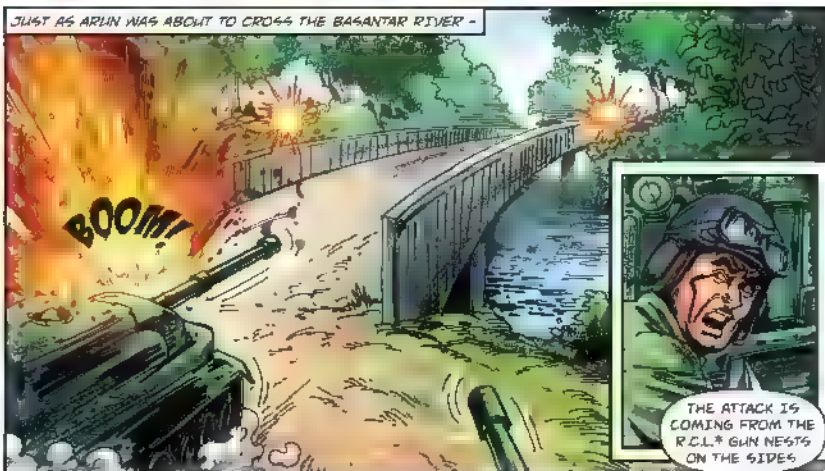
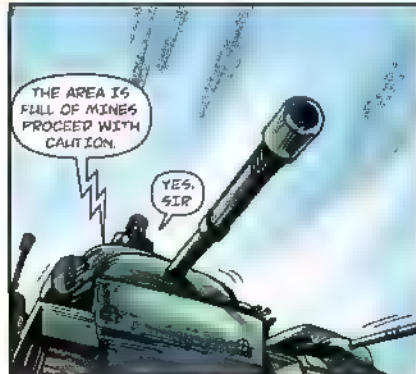
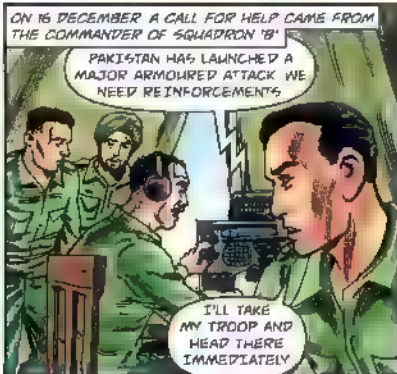
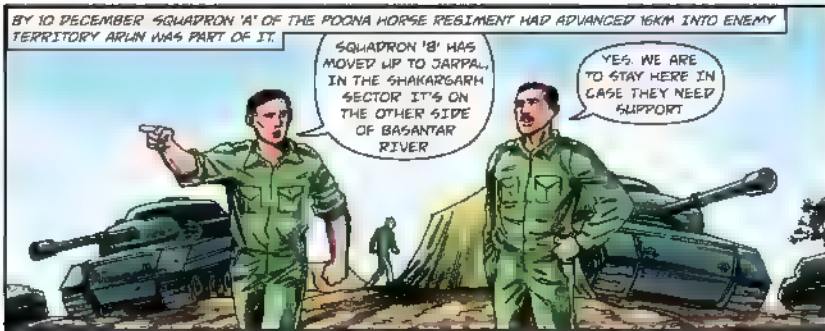


ON 3 DECEMBER -

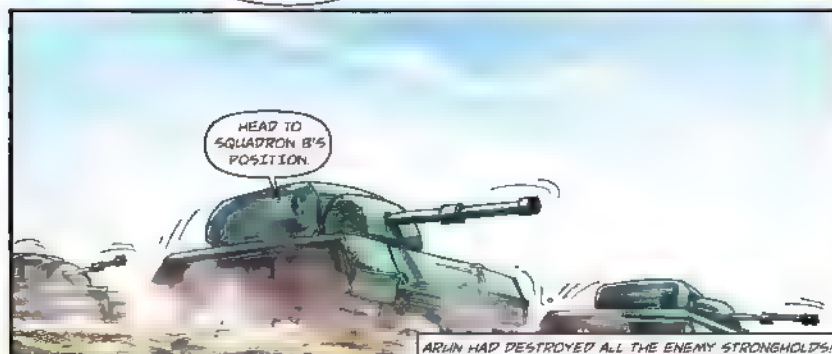
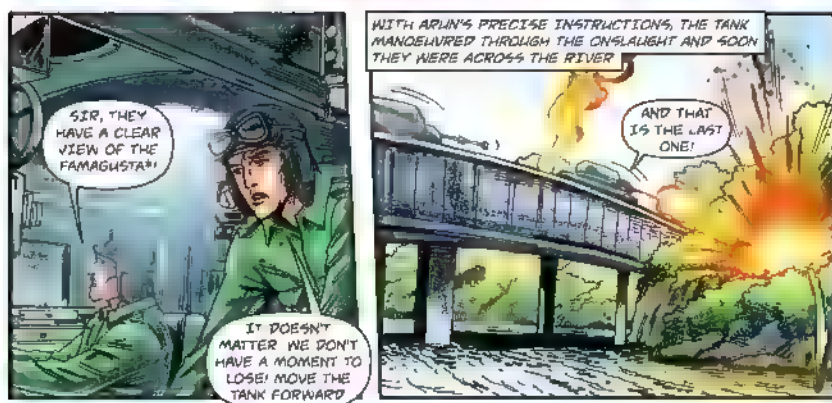
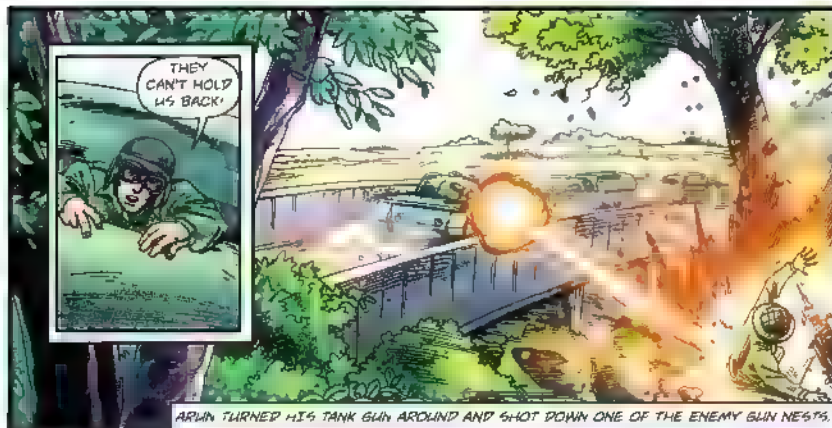


BEFORE THE INDIAN ARMY COULD PROCEED, THEY HAD TO CLEAR THE AREA OF MINES





*RECOILLESS GUNS

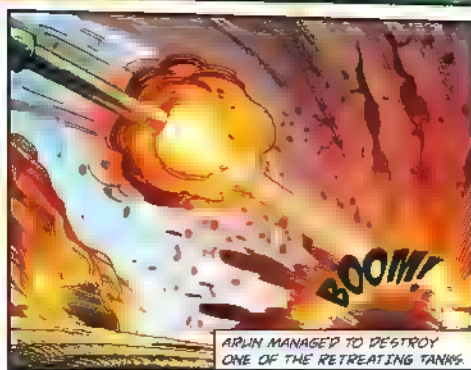
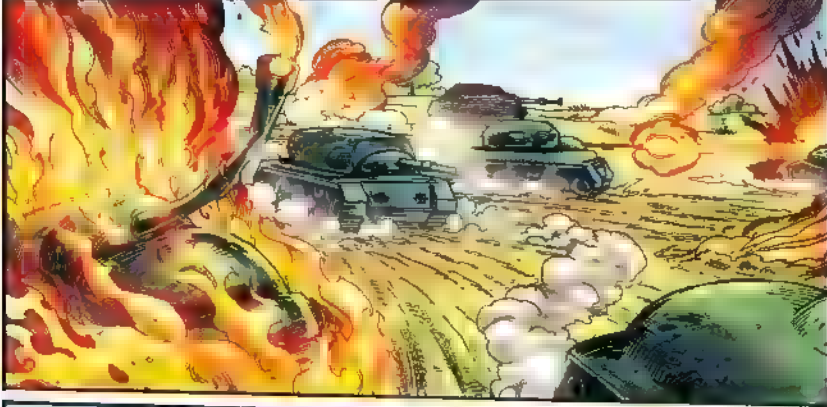


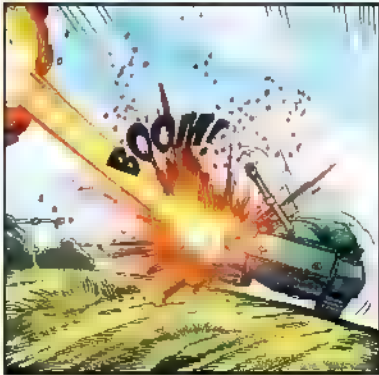
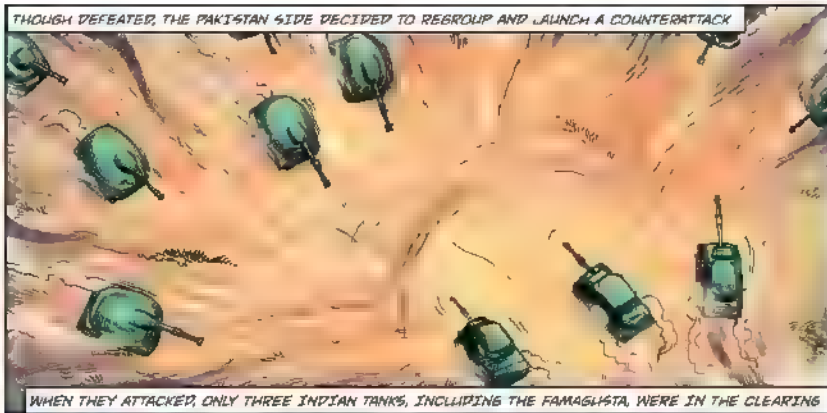
*TANKS ARE GIVEN NAMES SO THAT IT IS EASY TO IDENTIFY ONE TANK FROM ANOTHER DURING BATTLE
FAMAGUSTA WAS THE NAME OF ARWIN'S TANK

JUST AS THEY ARRIVED AT THE POSITION -

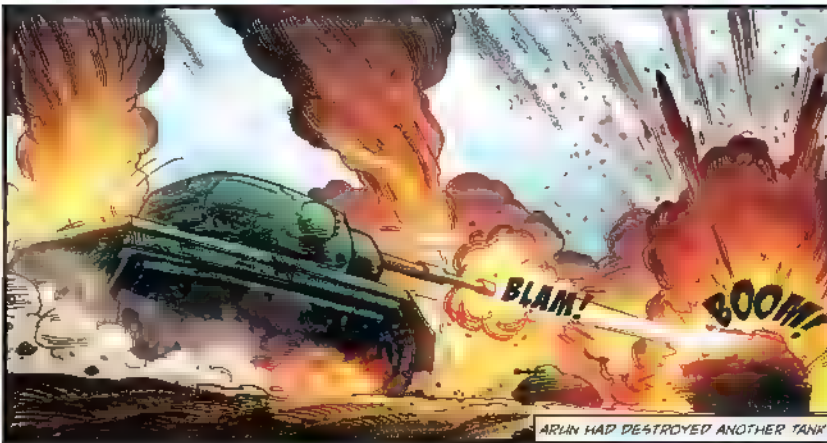
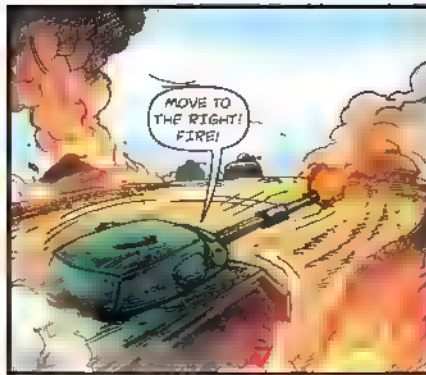
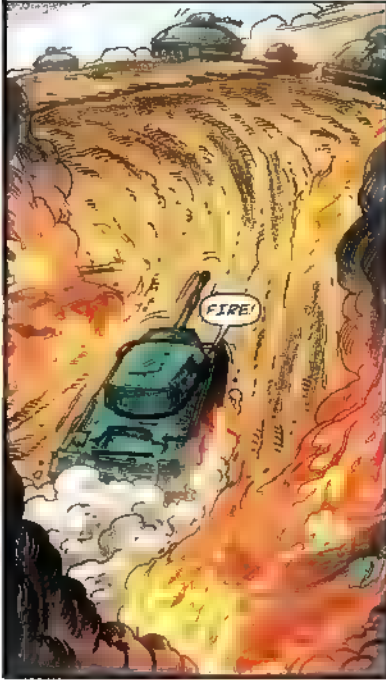


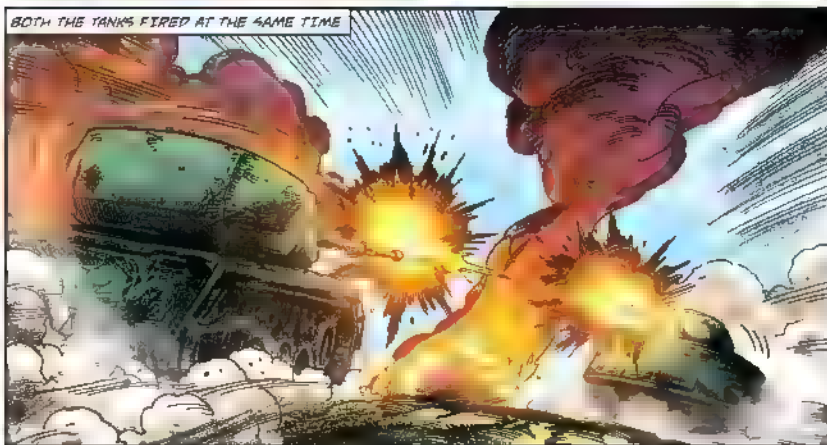
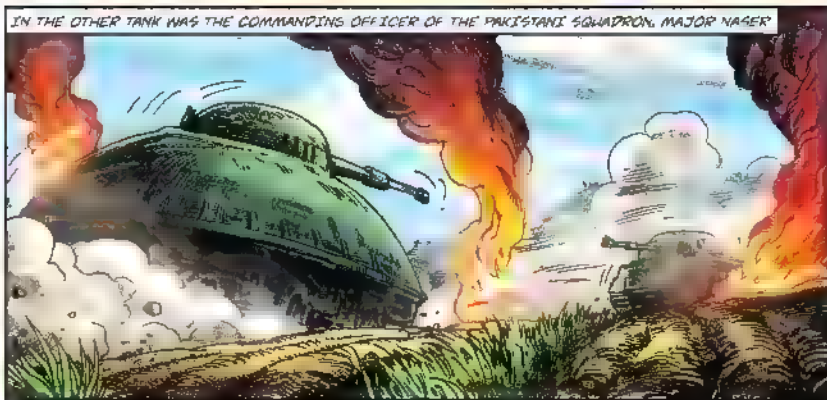
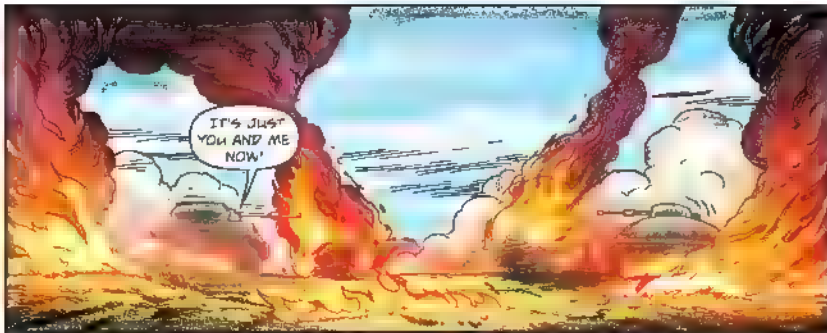
CHARGED FROM THE BATTLE AT BASANTAR RIVER, ARJUN WAS READY FOR ANOTHER FIGHT



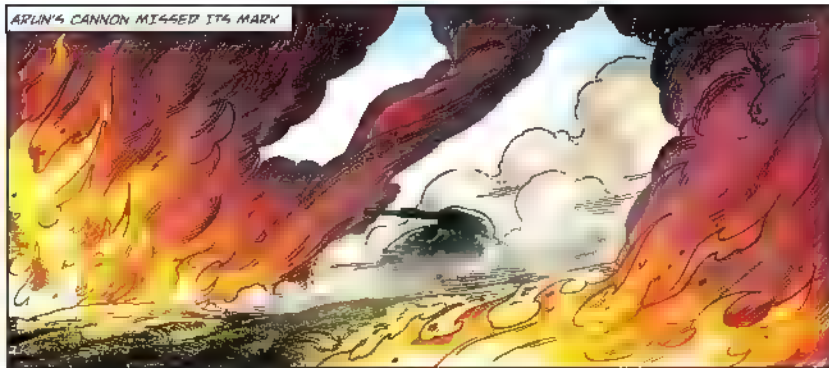


THE OTHER TWO TANKS IN ARLIN'S TROOP HAD BEEN DESTROYED. IT WAS UP TO ARLIN TO FIGHT OFF THE REMAINING FOUR ENEMY TANKS.





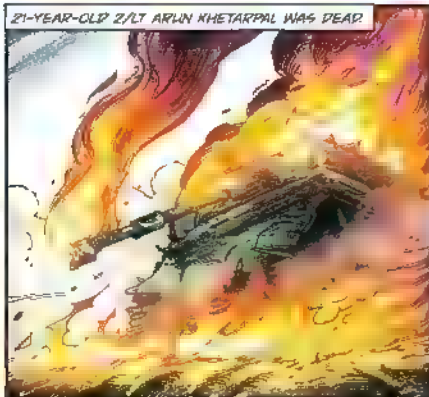
ARUN'S CANNON MISSED ITS MARK



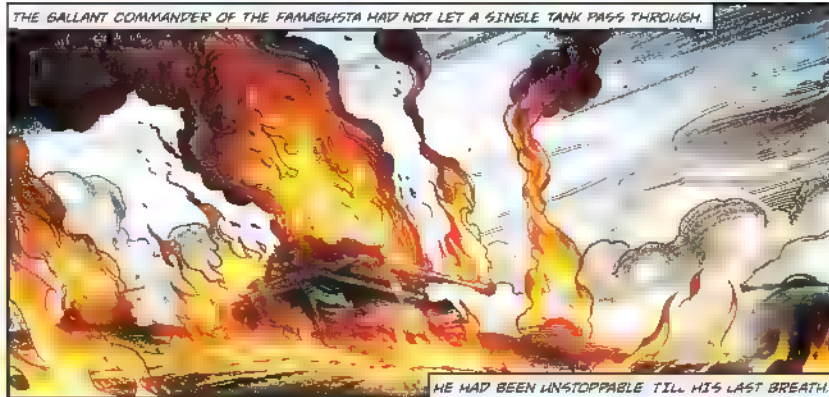
BUT MAJOR NASER'S TANK HAD NOT



21-YEAR-OLD 2/LT ARUN KHETARPAL WAS DEAD

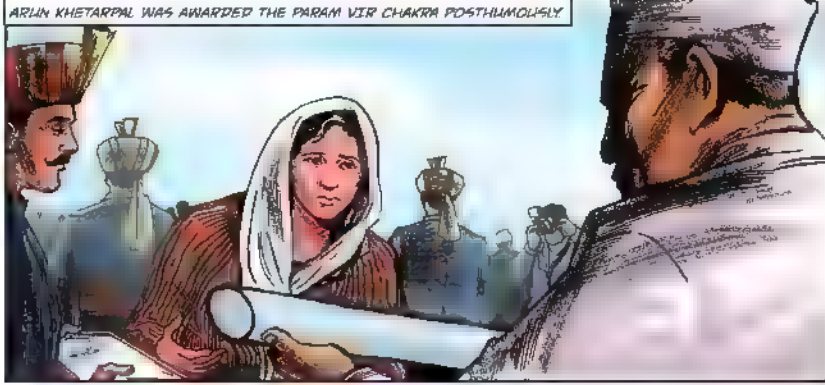


THE GALLANT COMMANDER OF THE FAMAGUSTA HAD NOT LET A SINGLE TANK PASS THROUGH.



HE HAD BEEN UNSTOPPABLE TIL HIS LAST BREATH.

ARJUN KHETARPAL WAS AWARDED THE PARAM VIR CHAKRA POSTHUMOUSLY.

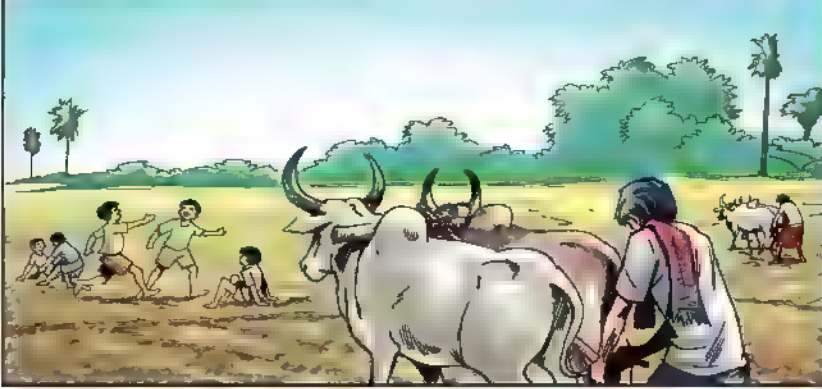


HIS BRAVE ACT HAD GONE BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY, FORCING THE ENEMY TO FALL BACK.

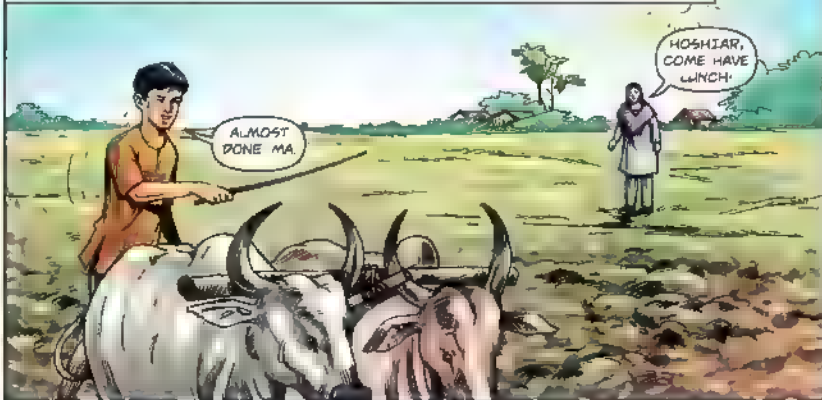


MAJOR HOSHIAR SINGH

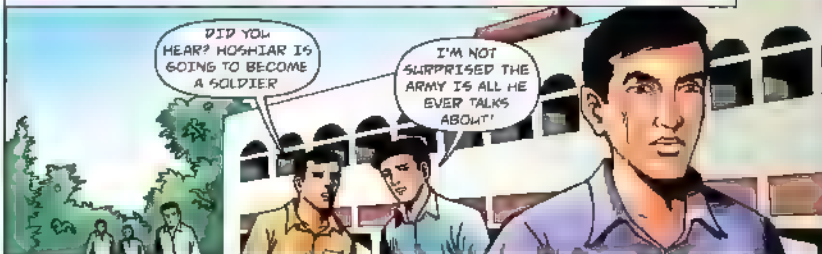
ON THE ROHTAK-SONEPAT HIGHWAY IN HARYANA LIES SISNA, A FARMING VILLAGE THAT HAS BEEN HOME TO OVER 250 SOLDIERS OF THE INDIAN ARMY



ON 5 MAY, 1937, WAS BORN THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS OF THESE NAMES, HOSHIAR SINGH. HOSHIAR WAS A HARD-WORKING CHILD WHO GREW UP HELPING IN HIS FATHER'S FIELDS.



LIKE MANY IN HIS VILLAGE, HOSHIAR TOO ASPIRED TO JOIN THE ARMED FORCES FROM A YOUNG AGE. HE WAS RECRUITED WHEN HE WAS STILL A TEENAGER AT JAT COLLEGE IN ROHTAK.



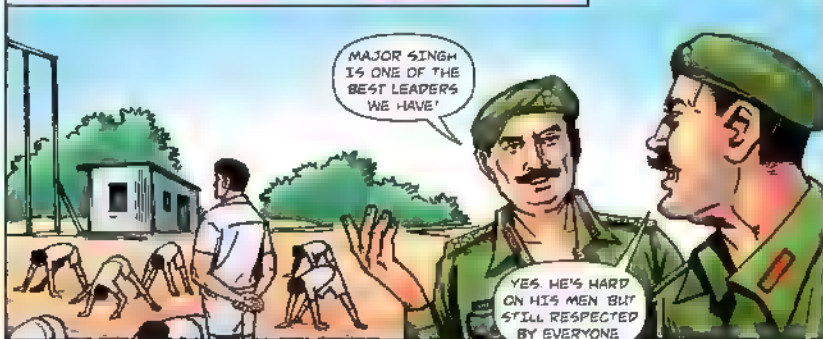
HOSHIAR WAS A NATURAL FIT AS A SOLDIER, BUT HE HAD BIGGER AMBITIONS.



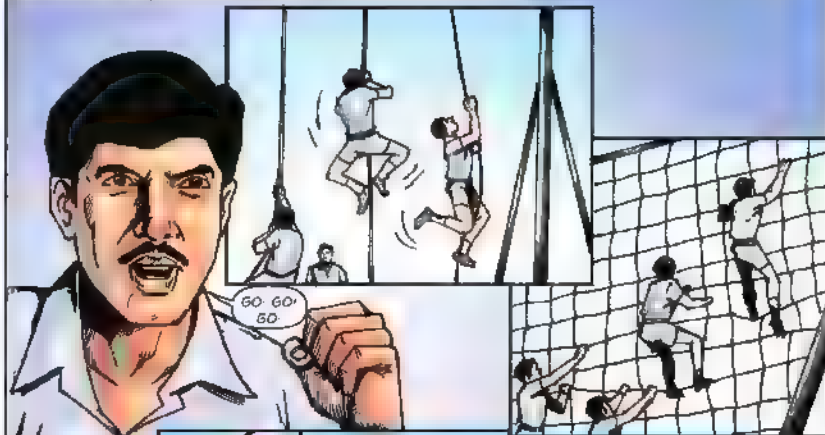
HOSHIAR CLEARED THE EXAM IN HIS FIRST ATTEMPT, ON 30 JUNE 1963 -



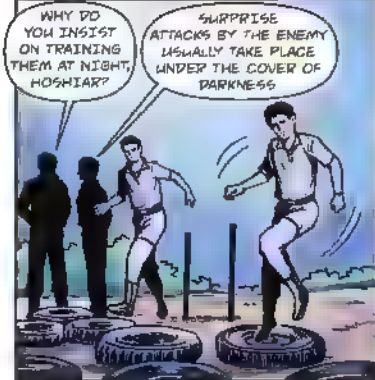
HOSHIAR MOVED UP THE RANKS QUICKLY, EVENTUALLY BECOMING A MAJOR



AS COMPANY COMMANDER HOSHIAR SINGH KEPT HIS TROOPS
HIGHLY TRAINED THROUGH RIGOROUS EXERCISE PROGRAMMES,

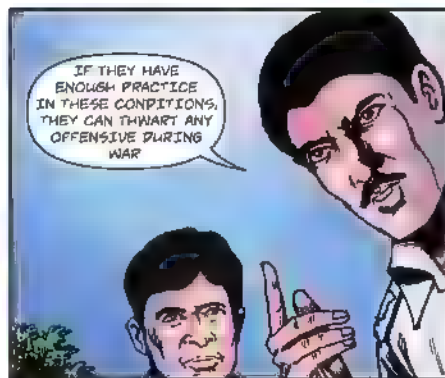


HIS METHODS WERE DIFFERENT
FROM ALL THE OTHER OFFICERS.



WHY DO
YOU INSIST
ON TRAINING
THEM AT NIGHT,
HOSHIAR?

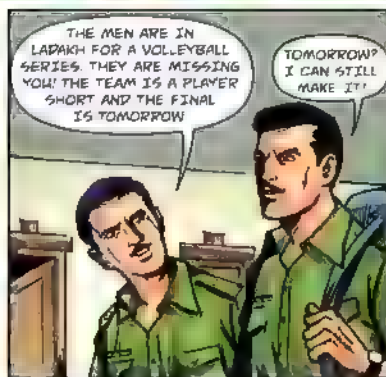
SURPRISE
ATTACKS BY THE ENEMY
USUALLY TAKE PLACE
UNDER THE COVER OF
DARKNESS



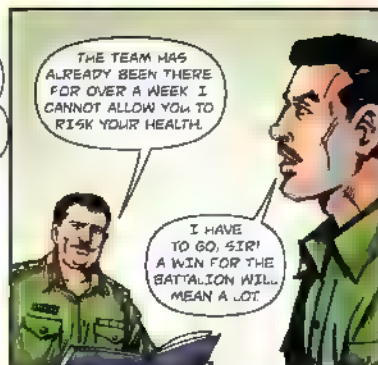
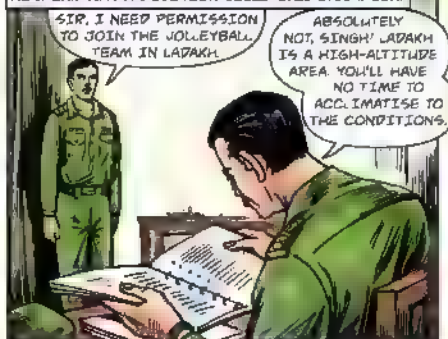
IF THEY HAVE
ENOUGH PRACTICE
IN THESE CONDITIONS,
THEY CAN THWART ANY
OFFENSIVE DURING
WAR



HOSHIAR WAS ALSO ADMIRER FOR BEING A TEAM PLAYER ONCE, AFTER RETURNING TO HIS UNIT FROM LEAVE.



HOSHIAR WAS A DIVISION VOLLEYBALL CHAMPION



HOSHIAR MANAGED TO CONVINCE HIS SENIOR OFFICER TO LET HIM GO. BUT WHEN HE ARRIVED IN LADAKH -



EVERY SMALL EFFORT TOOK A LOT OF ENERGY THE THIN AIR CAUSED HIM GREAT FATIGUE

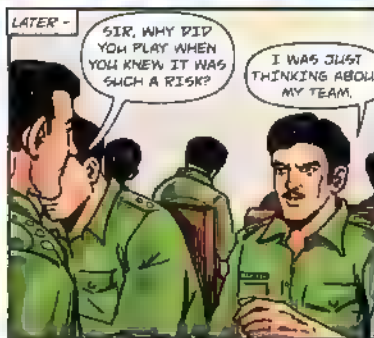
IGNORING THE CONDITIONS, HOSHIAR TOOK TO THE FIELD THE NEXT MORNING



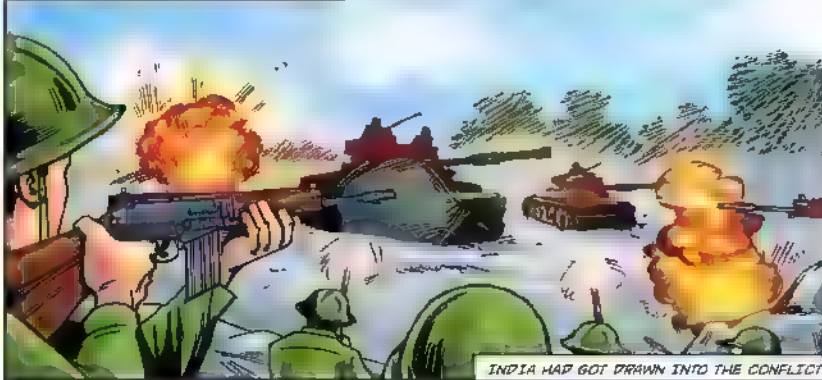
HOSHIAR IMPRESSED EVERYONE WITH HIS DETERMINATION BUT HALFWAY THROUGH THE MATCH



HOSHIAR SINGH HAD TO BE EVACUATED IMMEDIATELY



THE YEAR 1971 BROUGHT THE TOUGHEST CHALLENGE MAJOR HOSHIAR SINGH AND HIS MEN WOULD EVER FACE. EAST PAKISTAN (BANGLADESH) DECLARED INDEPENDENCE FROM WEST PAKISTAN IN MARCH, 1971, AND THE TWO REGIONS HAD GONE TO WAR.



INDIA HAD GOT DRAWN INTO THE CONFLICT

IN AN EFFORT TO DIVERT INDIAN TROOPS FROM HELPING EAST PAKISTAN IN THE EAST, THE WEST PAKISTANI FORCES HAD OPENED AN ATTACK ON THE WESTERN FRONT IN PUNJAB. THE COMMANDING OFFICER ADDRESSED HOSHIAR SINGH AND THE TROOPS.



WE HAVE RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT THE ENEMY IS ABOUT TO ATTACK THROUGH THE SHAKARGARH BULGE AS YOU KNOW THIS IS A KEY STRATEGIC AREA FOR US

THE PAKISTANIS PLANNED TO CUT OFF NHIA WHICH WAS THE ONLY ROAD LINK BETWEEN JAMMU AND PUNJAB.



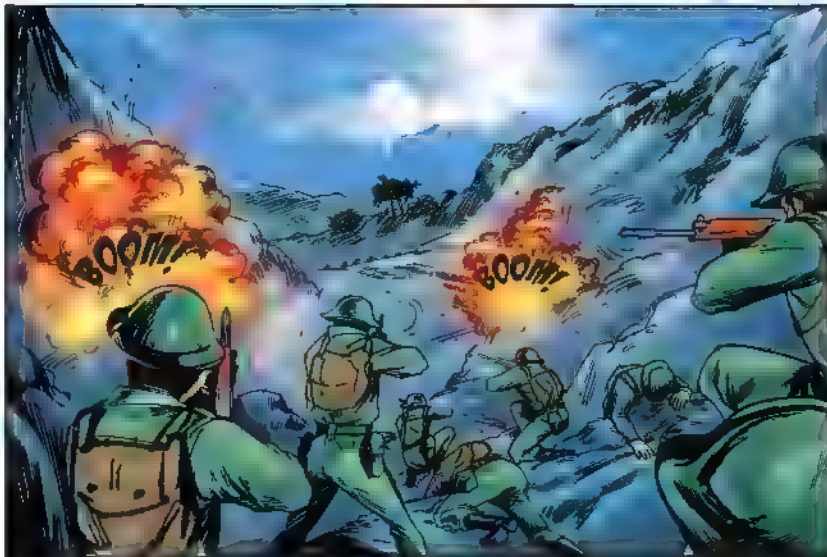
IF WE LOSE OUR GRASP HERE JAMMU & KASHMIR WILL BE COMPLETELY CUT OFF FROM THE REST OF INDIA. RECAPTURING IT WILL COME AT A HUGE COST



ON THE NIGHT OF 15 DECEMBER, 1971, MOSHIAR SINGH LED 'C' COMPANY TO JARPAL AND WAITED TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK



*AN AREA ACROSS AN OBSTACLE HELD BY THE ENEMY THROUGH WHICH LARGER OFFENSIVE FORCES, LIKE ARMoured COLUMNS, ARE LAUNCHED TO EXPLOIT DEEP INTO ENEMY TERRITORY



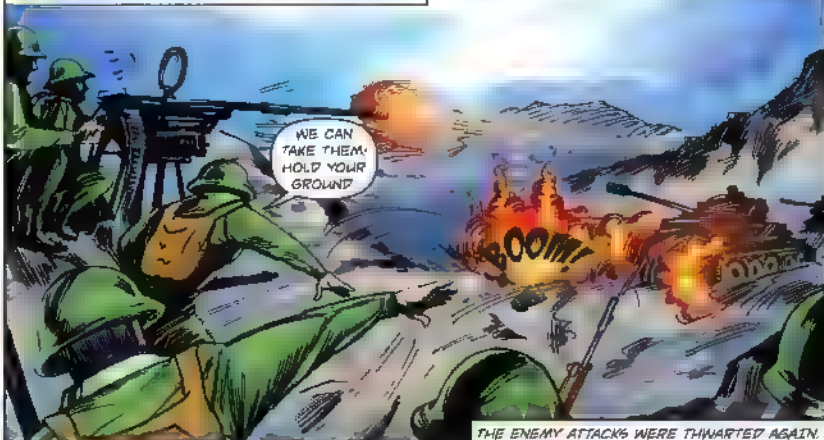
DESPITE SUFFERING HEAVY CASUALTIES, MAJOR HOSHIAR SINSH'S 'C' COMPANY SCORED A HUGE VICTORY BY CAPTURING JARFAL FROM THE PAKISTANIS.



HOSHIAR WAS RIGHT. THE NEXT DAY, ON 16 DECEMBER, THE PAKISTANI FORCES LAUNCHED THREE ATTACKS TO TRY AND RECAPTURE THE VILLAGE.



TWO OF THE ATTACKS WERE SUPPORTED BY ARMOUR*



THE ENEMY ATTACKS WERE THWARTED AGAIN.

*HEAVILY ARMED TANKS THAT SUPPORT INFANTRY

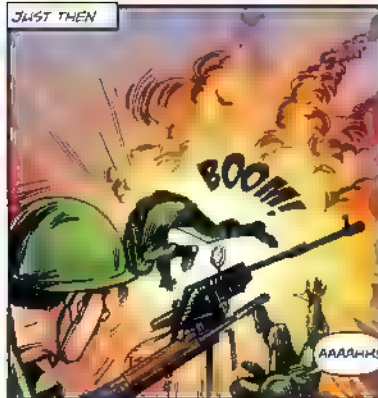
BUT THE PAKISTANI FORCES WERE NOT DONE. ON THE MORNING OF 17 DECEMBER THEY LAUNCHED A FINAL ATTACK



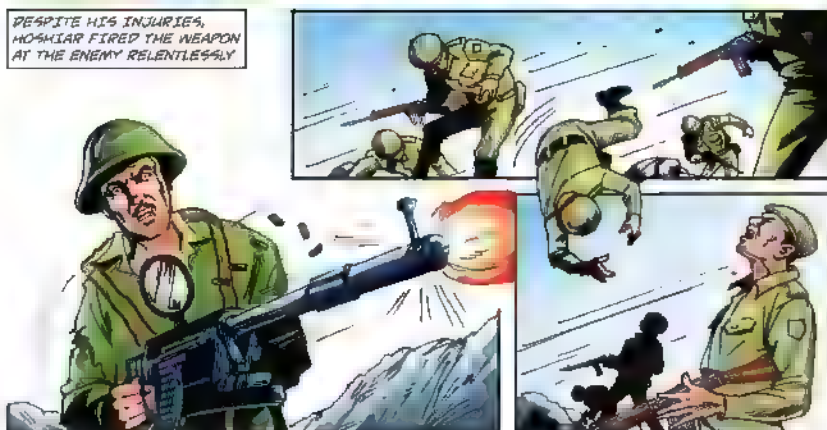
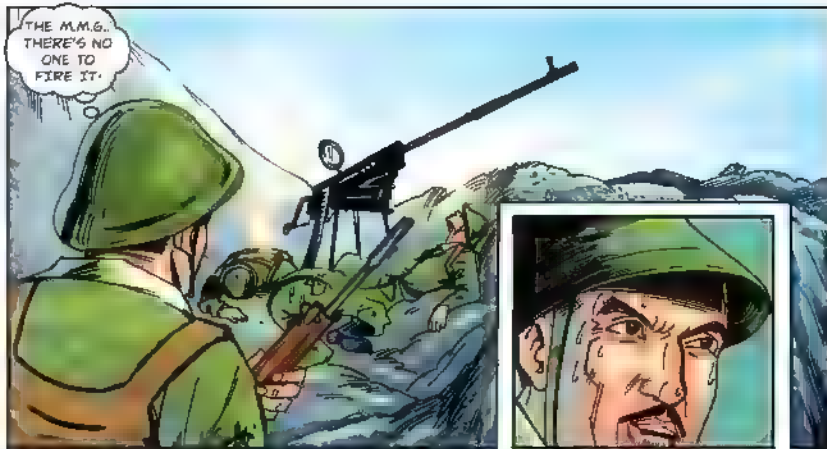
THE INDIAN TROOPS, LED BY HOSHIAR FOUGHT WITH ALL THEY HAD



WITHOUT CARING ABOUT HIS SAFETY, HOSHIAR WENT FROM TRENCH TO TRENCH ENCOURAGING HIS MEN TO FIGHT BACK. THEN -



*"VERY GOOD!"



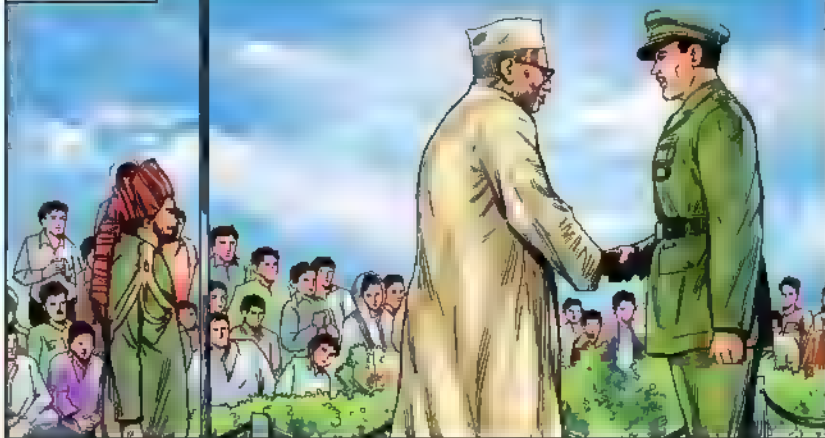
INSPIRED BY HIS DETERMINATION, HOSHIAR'S MEN SHATTERED THE ENEMY ATTACK THEIR COUNTER OFFENSIVE RESULTED IN 87 ENEMY SOLDIERS DEAD INCLUDING THE PAKISTANI COMMANDING OFFICER AND THREE OTHER OFFICERS



THE BATTLE OF BASANTAR, AS IT WOULD COME TO BE CALLED WAS ONE OF THE MOST CRUCIAL FIGHTS DURING THE INDIO-PAK WAR OF 1971



AFTER THE WAR, MAJOR HOSHIAR SINGH WAS AWARDED THE PARAM VIR CHAKRA FOR HIS DISPLAY OF BRAVERY, DAUNTLESS COURAGE IN THE FACE OF HEAVY ODDS AND COMPLETE DISREGARD FOR HIS PERSONAL SAFETY



HOSHIAR SINGH WAS PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF COLONEL BEFORE RETIRING FROM THE INDIAN ARMY

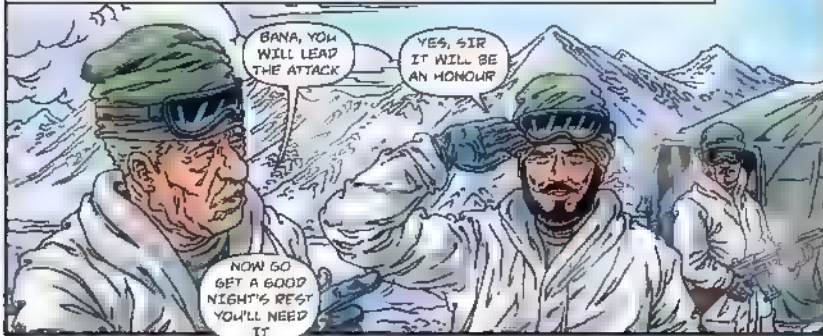
NAIB SUBEDAR BANA SINGH

JUNE, 1987, SIACHEN. MORE THAN 21,153 FT ABOVE SEA LEVEL. THE 80-KILOMETRE-LONG SIACHEN GLACIER IS THE NORTHERNMOST TIP OF THE KARAKORAM RANGE OF THE HIMALAYAS. UNFORGIVINGLY COLD AND SURROUNDED ONLY BY SNOW, EVEN BREATHING AND MOVING ARE A STRUGGLE HERE.





IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE THIRD PHASE OF THE OPERATION WOULD BEGIN THE NEXT DAY

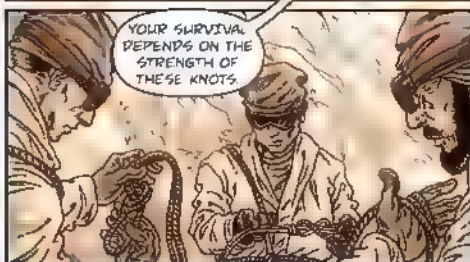
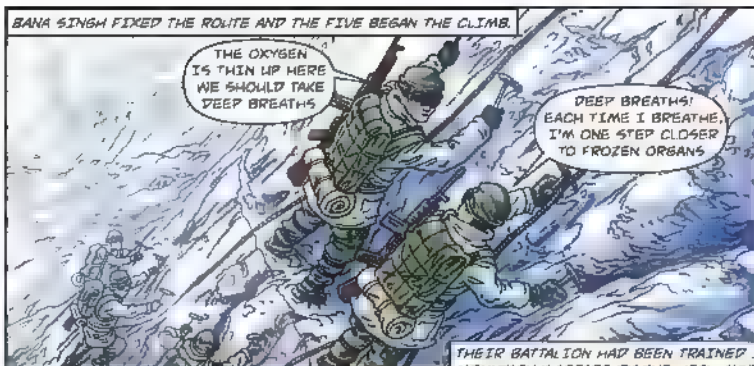


ON 26 JUNE, 1987, AROUND NOON, BANA SINGH SET OFF WITH HIS GROUP OF FOUR RIFLEMEN CHUNNI LAL LAKSHMAN DAS, OM RAJ AND KASHMIR CHAND



IT'S BROAD DAYLIGHT AND THE SNOW IS HEAVY I WILL CHOOSE ANOTHER ROUTE FOR THE ATTACK.

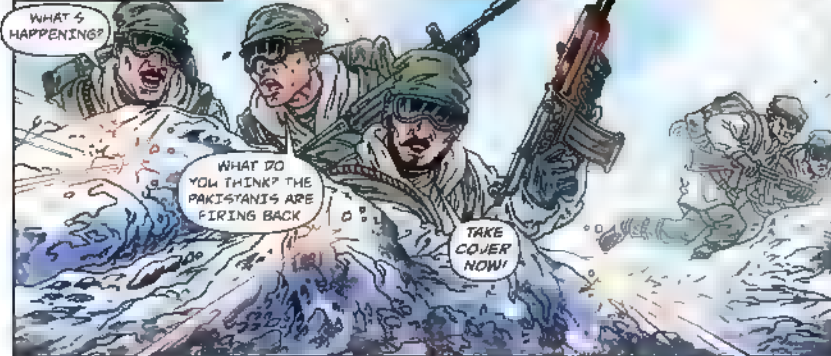


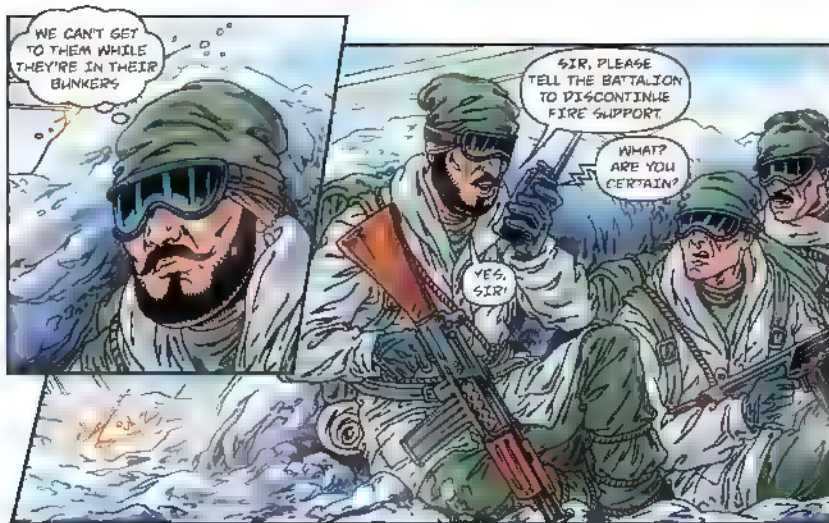


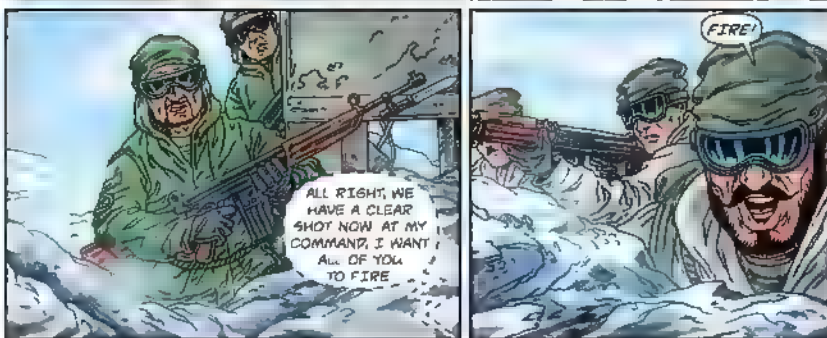
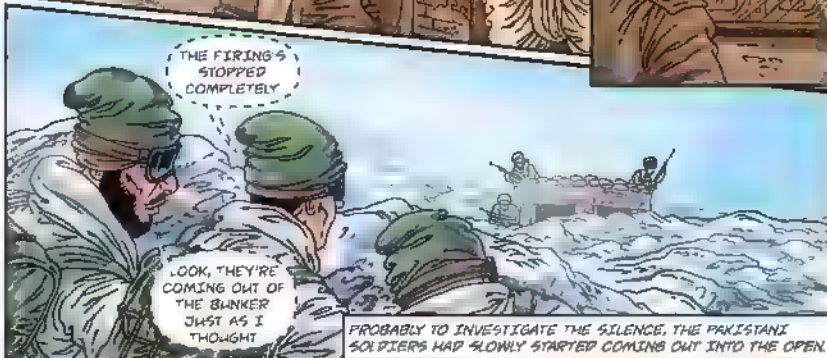
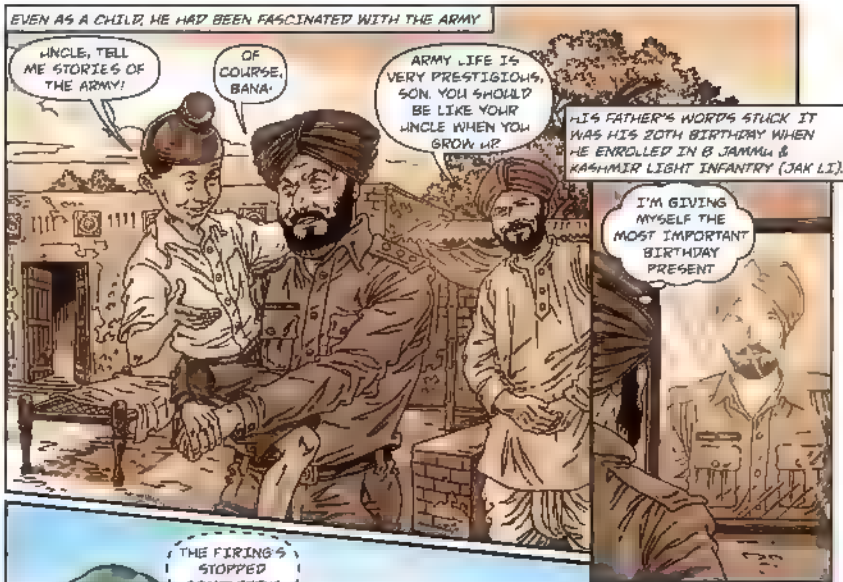
SHIVERING AND EXHAUSTED THE FIVE SOLDIERS FINISHED THEIR CLIMB



JUST THEN, THE INDIAN BATTALION STARTED GIVING THEM FIRE SUPPORT FROM BELOW THE RETALIATION WAS SWIFT







THE PAKISTANI SOLDIERS WERE TAKEN COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE



AS THEY FIRED,
THE FIVE SOLDIERS
MOVED SWIFTLY
THROUGH THE SNOW
TOWARDS THE
PAKISTANI BUNKER

DON'T
HOLD BACK!
TRUST YOUR
BAYONET!

BANA LOBBED A GRENADE IN THROUGH
THE ENTRANCE OF THE BUNKER, WHILE
THE OTHERS COVERED ALL THE EXITS.

WHAT FOLLOWED WAS A FIERCE CLOSE COMBAT FIGHT.
THE PAKISTANI SOLDIERS WERE MORE IN NUMBER



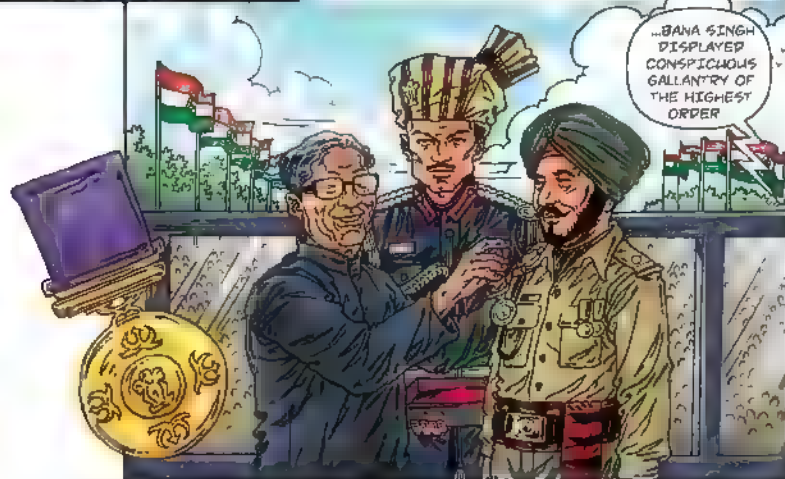
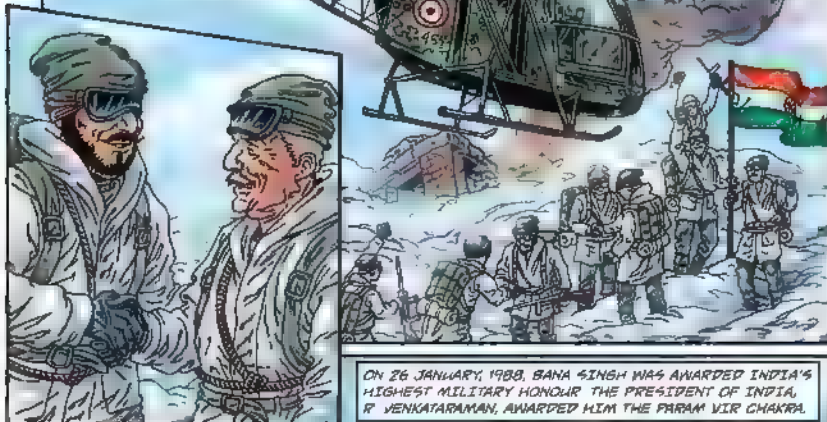
BUT THE INDIANS WERE
STRONGER AND WON THE DAY

BANA SINGH RELAYED
THE HAPPY MESSAGE



WE'VE DONE
IT, SIR QWAID
POST IS OURS

THE ARMY LATER DECIDED TO RENAME THE POST BANA TOP IN HIS HONOUR



AT THE TIME, HE WAS THE ONLY PARAM VIR CHAKRA AWARDEE WHO WAS STILL SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES. HE RETIRED AS A SHABDAR MAJOR IN 2000, AND WAS ALSO MADE HONORARY CAPTAIN

MAJOR RAMASWAMY PARAMESWARAN

30 JULY, 1987,
DEHRADUN

MAJOR RAMASWAMY PARAMESWARAN WAS
RELAXING AT HOME WITH HIS WIFE, LAMA.

THIS IS
WONDERFUL TEA,
LAMA! COULD YOU PASS
ME THE PAPER,
PLEASE?

THE PRIME MINISTER
HAS SIGNED A PEACE
ACCORD WITH SRI LANKA.
WE'RE GOING TO SEND AN
INDIAN PEACEKEEPING
FORCE THERE

YES, I
DID SEE THE
HEADLINES

THE SITUATION IN SRI LANKA WAS TENSE. VELLUPILLAI PRABHAKARAN HAD FORMED
A MILITANT ORGANISATION CALLED THE LIBERATION TIGERS OF TAMIL EELAM
(LTTE) WITH THE AIM OF CREATING A SEPARATE STATE FOR TAMILS IN SRI LANKA.



THE LTTE AND THE SRI LANKAN GOVERNMENT WERE ENGAGED IN A CIVIL WAR.

SRI LANKAN PRESIDENT JINAPPA RICHARD JAYEWARDENE HAD
REQUESTED INDIA'S PRIME MINISTER, RAJIV GANDHI, TO MEDIATE.



IT SOON BECAME CLEAR THAT THE LTTE HAD NO INTENTION OF HONOURING THE INDIA-SRI LANKA ACCORD. THEY TURNED HOSTILE TOWARDS THE INDIAN TROOPS THAT HAD GONE THERE TO KEEP PEACE.



THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT DECIDED THAT IT WAS TIME FOR THE ARMY TO INTERVENE. THE OPERATION WAS NAMED OPERATION PAVAN. THE ARMY INITIALLY SENT A BRIGADE CONSISTING OF BATTALIONS FROM DIFFERENT REGIMENTS.



AMONG THESE, WAS 8 MAHAR REGIMENT.

MAJOR PARAMESWARAN, 'PARRY' TO HIS COLLEAGUES, WAS ITCHING TO BE PART OF THE ACTION.



I HAVE
A REQUEST
SIR

WHAT IS
IT PARRY?

I WISH
TO JOIN
8 MAHAR
SIR

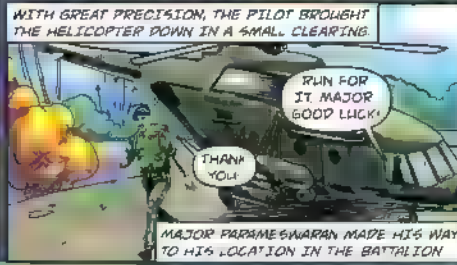
PARRY'S REQUEST WAS GRANTED ON 15 OCTOBER, 1987. HE LANDED AT THE PALAY AIRBASE IN SRI LANKA.



WELCOME
TO JAFFNA,
SIR



THE PILOT TRIED TO LAND THE HELICOPTER BUT -



BY NOVEMBER, THE LTTE HAD INCREASED ITS ATTACKS. MAJOR PARAMESWARAN WAS SHOWN THE CAMPS WHERE EVACUATED CIVILIANS WERE PUT UP

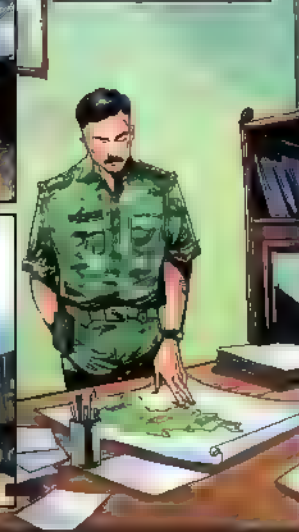


PARRY BEGAN TO VISIT THESE CAMPS FREQUENTLY HE TRIED TO SEND THEM AS MANY SUPPLIES AS HE COULD



THE LOCALS, ESPECIALLY CHILDREN, LOVED THIS TAMIL-SPEAKING OFFICER WHO BROUGHT THEM SWEETS!

IN THE MEANTIME, MAJOR PARAMESWARAN CONTINUED TO RECCO THE SURROUNDING AREA AND COLLECT INTELLIGENCE



24 NOVEMBER,
1987: MAJOR
PARAMESWARAN,
NOW THE QUARTER
MASTER AND THE
COMMANDER OF
'C' COMPANY,
CALLED CAPTAIN
D. R. SHARMA

I HAVE JUST
RECEIVED INFORMATION
FROM THE BRIGADE THAT
A CONSIGNMENT OF ARMS
IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE
AT A DESERTED HOUSE
IN KANTHARODAI
VILLAGE

WHAT ARE
YOUR ORDERS,
SIR?

SIR

WE'LL TAKE TWO
PLATOONS AND LEAVE
AT 2315 HRS. GET
THE MEN READY
CAPTAIN

THE TWO PLATOONS LEFT FOR KANTHARODAI VILLAGE
WHICH WAS A KILOMETRE AWAY FROM UDUVIL. BY 0130
HRS THEY HAD LOCATED AND SURROUNDED THE HOUSE

AFTER KEEPING WATCH FOR A FEW
HOURS, THEY TOOK A LOOK AROUND

THE TRUCK
IS EMPTY
SIR

THE HOUSE
SEEMS EMPTY
TOO. BUT LET'S
MAKE SURE

FOLLOWING MAJOR PARAMESWARAN'S COMMAND

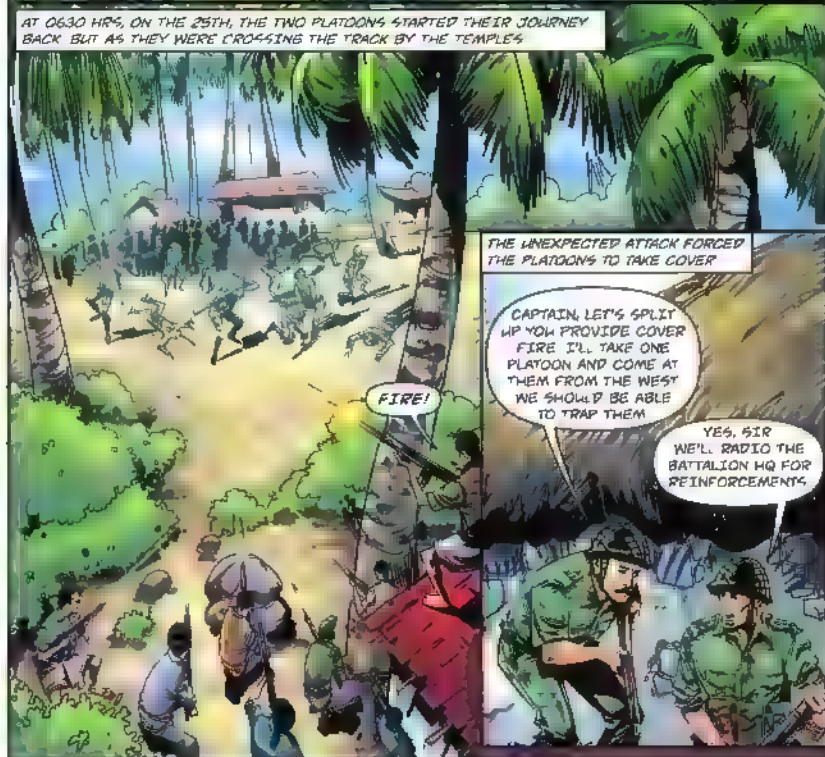
SOON...

THERE'S
NOTHING IN
THERE, SIR

ALL RIGHT
I RECKON WE
SHOULD HEAD
BACK TO
UDUVIL



AT 0630 HRS, ON THE 25TH, THE TWO PLATOONS STARTED THEIR JOURNEY BACK BUT AS THEY WERE CROSSING THE TRACK BY THE TEMPLES

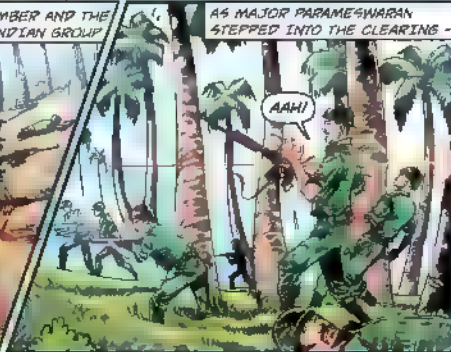




BUT RETALIATED FIERCELY THE SHEER NUMBER AND THE HEAVY FIRE THEY GENERATED BROKE THE INDIAN GROUP APART



AS MAJOR PARAMESHWARAN STEPPED INTO THE CLEARING -



THE BULLET LEFT HIS PALM ALMOST SEVERED



HE SPURTED TOWARDS THE NEAREST MILITANT AND



PARRY'S COURAGE GAVE THE MEN RENEWED FERVOUR



SOON THE MILITANTS SCATTERED AND BEGAN TO SEEK COVER

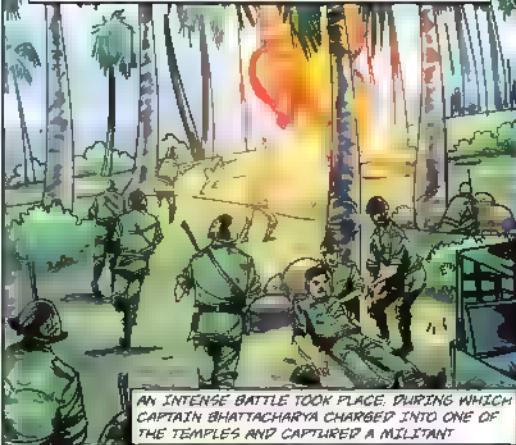


WHEN CAPTAIN SHARMA REACHED MAJOR PARAMESWARAN
AN HOUR LATER, HE HAD BREATHED HIS LAST



EVEN HIS
WATCH HAS
STOPPED

SOON AFTER, HELP ARRIVED IN THE FORM OF CAPTAIN
T.C. BHATTACHARYA AND HIS TWENTY-MAN REINFORCEMENT

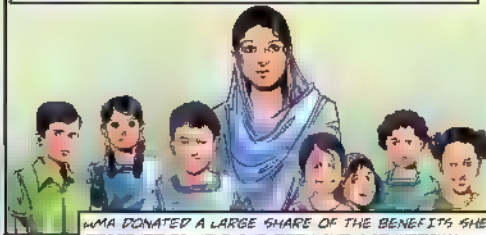


AN INTENSE BATTLE TOOK PLACE, DURING WHICH
CAPTAIN BHATTACHARYA CHARGED INTO ONE OF
THE TEMPLES AND CAPTURED A MILITANT

THE BOLD MOVE PUT A SUDDEN
END TO THE BATTLE. INFORMATION
GATHERED FROM THE CAPTURED
MILITANT ENABLED THEM TO
RECOVER A HUGE AMOUNT OF
EXPLOSIVES AND FIREARMS.



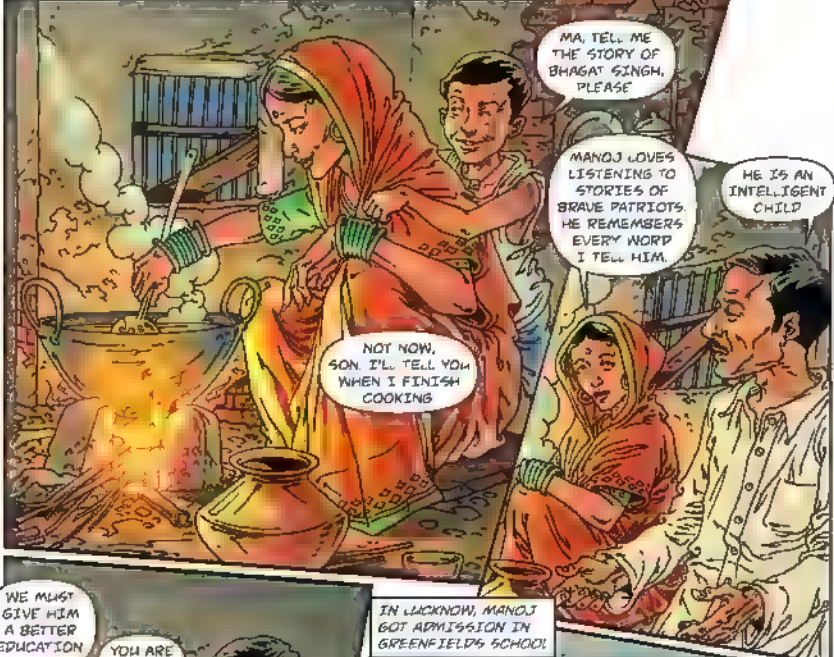
FOR HIS INSPIRING LEADERSHIP AND EXTREME
COURAGE, MAJOR RAMASHWAMY PARAMESWARAN WAS
HONOURED POSTHUMOUSLY WITH THE PARAM VIR CHAKRA.



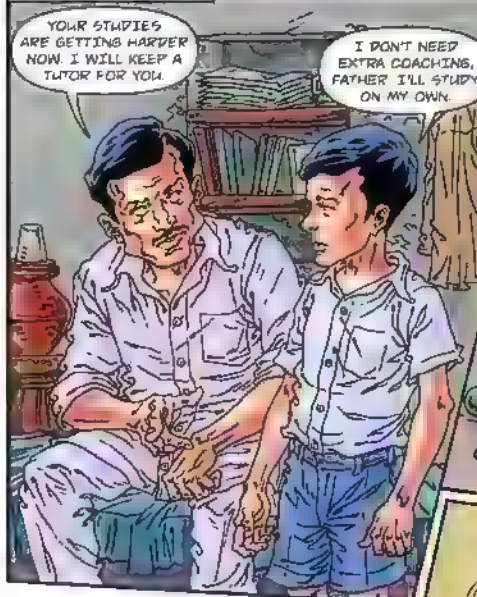
WMA DONATED A LARGE SHARE OF THE BENEFITS SHE
RECEIVED TO HELP CHILDREN AND WAR WIDOWS.

CAPTAIN MANOJ KUMAR PANDEY

1882. SEVEN-YEAR-OLD MANOJ LIVED WITH HIS PARENTS, GOPICHAND AND BRAJMOHINI PANDEY, IN ROODHA, A VILLAGE IN UTTAR PRADESH



AS MANOJ GREW OLDER -



YOUR STUDIES ARE GETTING HARDER NOW. I WILL KEEP A TUTOR FOR YOU.

I DON'T NEED EXTRA COACHING, FATHER. I'LL STUDY ON MY OWN.

MANOJ DID WELL AT STUDIES. HE WAS ALSO KEEN ON BOXING AND BODYBUILDING.

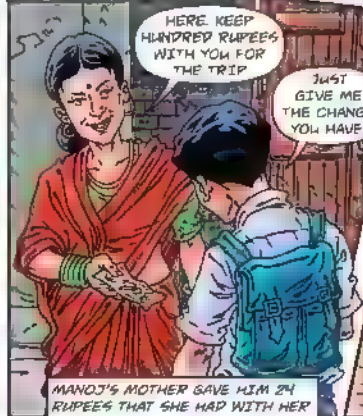


YOUR FEET HARDLY TOUCH THE GROUND WHEN YOU SKIP. HOW DO YOU SKIP SO SILENTLY AND SO FAST?

I HAVE PLENTY OF PRACTICE AT HOME.

...AT NIGHT, MY MOTHER PUTS OUT THE CLAY POTS SHE MAKES TO DRY ON THE TERRACE. I PRACTISE SKIPPING OVER THE POTS AND BACK!

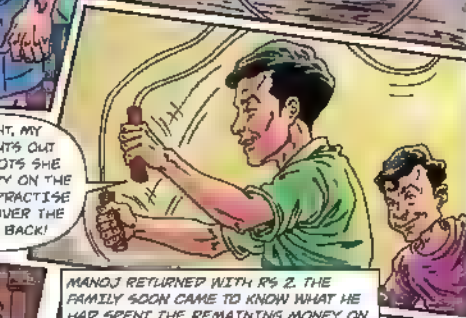
ONCE HE WAS GOING ON A SCHOOL TRIP TO HARIDWAR



HERE, KEEP HUNDRED RUPEES WITH YOU FOR THE TRIP.

JUST GIVE ME THE CHANGE YOU HAVE.

MANOJ'S MOTHER GAVE HIM 24 RUPEES THAT SHE HAD WITH HER.

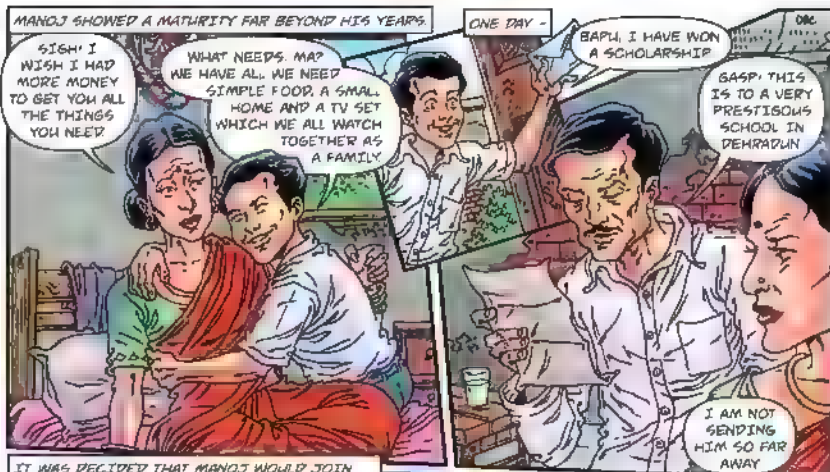


MANOJ RETURNED WITH RS 2. THE FAMILY SOON CAME TO KNOW WHAT HE HAD SPENT THE REMAINING MONEY ON.

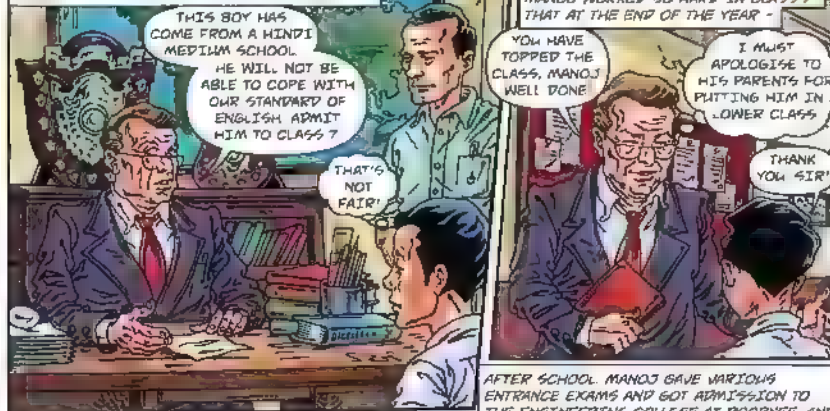
THE POSTMAN HAS BROUGHT A MAGAZINE ADDRESSED TO YOU.

YES, MA. I BOUGHT A YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION WITH THE MONEY YOU GAVE ME FOR THE TRIP. IT HAS STORIES ABOUT ALL OUR FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

MANOJ'S LOVE FOR HIS COUNTRY WAS EVIDENT EVEN AT THAT AGE.



IT WAS DECIDED THAT MANOJ WOULD JOIN CLASS 8 AT THE HINDI SCHOOL IN LUCKNOW.



MANOJ REMAINED A TOPPER. AT 15, HE WON ANOTHER SCHOLARSHIP.



AT NDA, MANOJ WAS SOON NOTICED BY SENIOR OFFICERS.

MARK MY WORDS.
THAT YOUNG MANOJ
PANDEY WILL GO
A LONG WAY.

I FIND HIM A
BIT RESERVED
AND QUIET.

MAYBE
BUT HE HAS
NERVES OF
STEEL.

JUST THEN A SCUFFLE BROKE
OUT BETWEEN TWO CADETS.

HOI!
BREAK
IT UP!

HE HAS
SUCH A
STENTORIAN
VOICE.

HAI HAI! YOU
ARE RIGHT GOOD
VOICE FOR
A LEADER!

MANOJ PASSED OUT FROM THE NDA, AND
JOINED THE INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY.
IN JUNE, 1997, HE WAS COMMISSIONED
AS AN OFFICER OF THE INDIAN ARMY.

AMMA, YOU TOLD ME
STORIES OF BRAVEHEARTS
LIKE BHAGAT SINGH
AND AZAD. OF WHAT USE IS THAT AND
ALL MY TRAINING IF I AM
GOING TO BE SCARED OF
CONFRONTING DANGER?

ALL MY TRAINING IF I AM
GOING TO BE SCARED OF
CONFRONTING DANGER?

BUT HIS MOTHER
COULD NOT GET
OVER HER FEARS.

I HAVE JOINED
THE GORKHA RIFLES
BATTALION WE
ARE POSTED IN
KASHMIR.

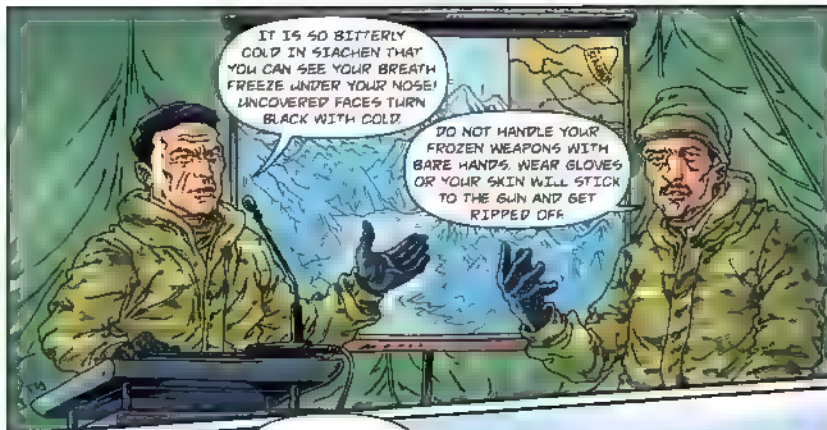
BUT THAT
IS A HOTBED
OF TERRORIST
ACTIVITY!

HE IS
RIGHT.

MANOJ I HAVE
HEARD AN OFFICER
IS ALWAYS BEHIND
HIS TROOPS WHEN
THEY ATTACK.

AMMA, MY
JAWANS ARE LIKE
MY CHILDREN. I
WILL ALWAYS LEAD
FROM THE FRONT.





IT IS SO BITTERLY COLD IN SIACHEN THAT YOU CAN SEE YOUR BREATH FREEZE UNDER YOUR NOSE! UNCOVERED FACES TURN BLACK WITH COLD.

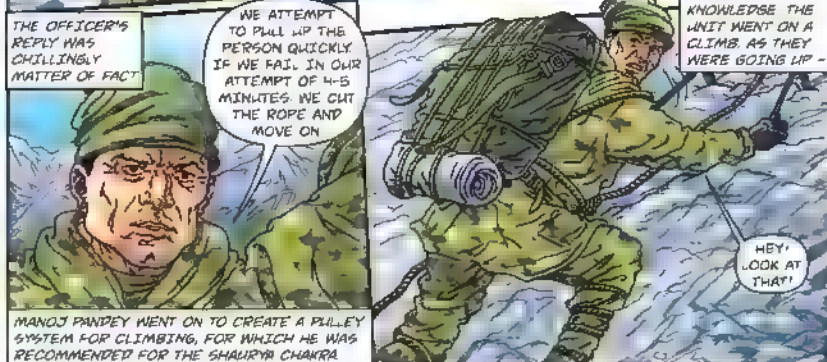
DO NOT HANDLE YOUR FROZEN WEAPONS WITH BARE HANDS. WEAR GLOVES OR YOUR SKIN WILL STICK TO THE GUN AND GET RIPPED OFF.



THE UNIT HAD TO TRAIN IN MOUNTAIN-CLIMBING.

THE TERRAIN HERE IS TREACHEROUS. IT IS FULL OF CREVASSES. BEFORE CLIMBING WE FORM A ROPE CHAIN BY TYING OURSELVES TO ONE ANOTHER.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A PERSON FALLS OFF, SIR?



THE OFFICER'S REPLY WAS CHILLINGLY MATTER OF FACT.

WE ATTEMPT TO PULL UP THE PERSON QUICKLY. IF WE FAIL IN OUR ATTEMPT OF 4-5 MINUTES, WE CUT THE ROPE AND MOVE ON.

EQUIPPED WITH THIS NEW-FOUND KNOWLEDGE THE UNIT WENT ON A CLIMB. AS THEY WERE GOING UP -

HEY! LOOK AT THAT!

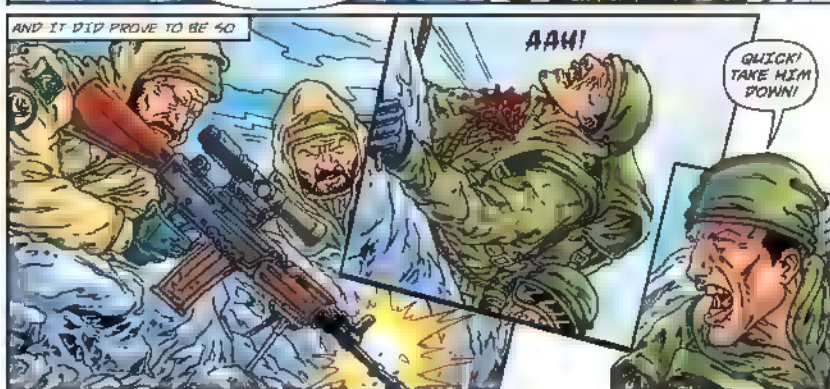
MANOJ PANDEY WENT ON TO CREATE A PULLEY SYSTEM FOR CLIMBING, FOR WHICH HE WAS RECOMMENDED FOR THE SHAURYA CHAKRA.



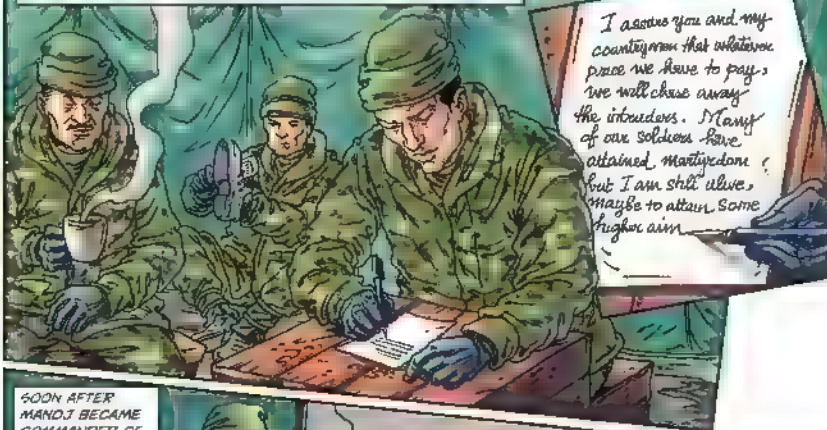
*GROUND



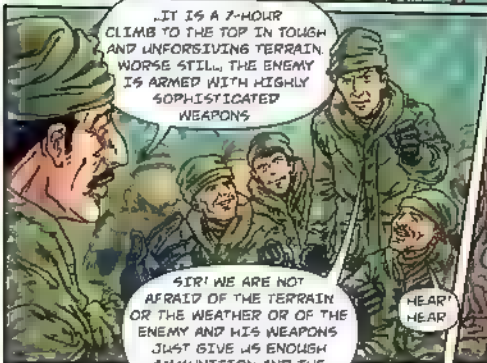
*PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE



AFTER THAT RISK-FRAUGHT MISSION, MANOJ PANDEY WAS PART OF A BOLDLY-LED ATTACK ON BATALIK HEIGHTS WHICH CLEARED THE JUBAR TOP OF INTRUDERS. IN A LETTER TO HIS PARENTS -



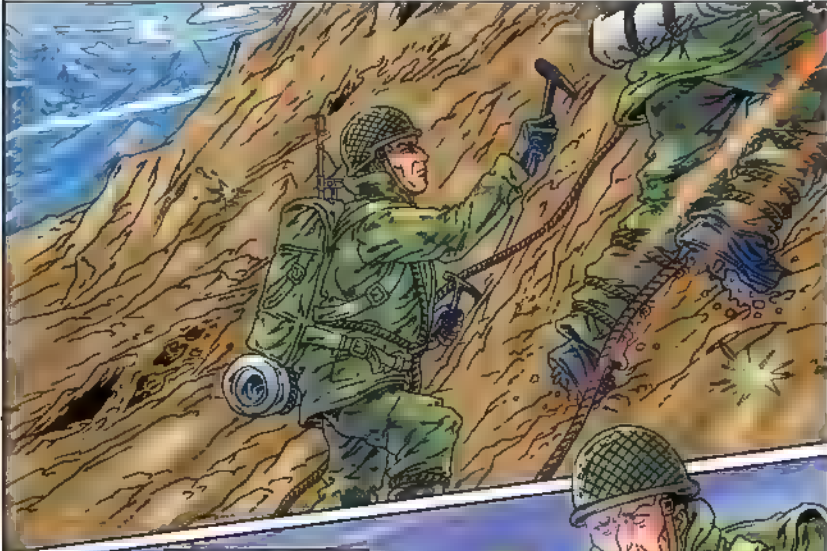
SOON AFTER MANOJ BECAME COMMANDER OF NO.5 PLATOON. ON THE NIGHT OF 2 JULY 1999 -



ORDERS TAKEN, MANOJ AND HIS MEN MOVED STEALTHILY ALONG A NARROW RIDGE WHICH LED TO THE SLOPES THEY WERE TO CLIMB.



MANOJ LED HIS MEN UP THE 80 DEGREE SLOPE THE PLATOON INCHED UP BUFFETED BY ICY WINDS AND A CONTINUOUS BARRAGE OF ENEMY GUNFIRE THEIR ONLY THOUGHT - CLEAR THE BUNKERS OF THE ENEMY

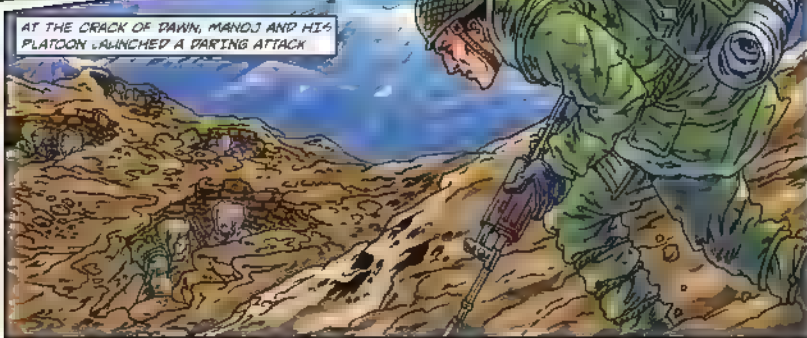


WHEN THEY REACHED THE TOP MANOJ PANDEY OUTLINED HIS STRATEGY

YOU WILL CLEAR THE BUNKERS ON THE RIGHT I AM GOING TO DESTROY THE FOUR BUNKERS ON THE LEFT



AT THE CRACK OF DAWN, MANOJ AND HIS PLATOON LAUNCHED A DARING ATTACK





WITH A LION-LIKE ROAR, HE LOBBED GRENADES INTO THE FIRST BUNKER

"TAKE THIS!"

BOOM!

AS THE SECOND GRENADE FELL INTO THE NEXT BUNKER -

AAAAH!

MANOJ THEN DESTROYED THE THIRD BUNKER BUT

WAS HIT BY A SPRAY OF BULLETS

AARGH! NO! I NEED TO GET THAT LAST BUNKER

BADLY WOUNDED MANOJ DASHED FORWARD AND THREW A GRENADE INTO THE LAST BUNKER BUT THEN -

THE ENEMY M.M.S FIRE CAUGHT THE BRAVE MAN ON HIS FOREHEAD!

HIS MEN SAW HIM FALL AND CAME RUNNING BUT HE SHOUTED TO THEM -



NA CHHORN!
NA CHHORN!

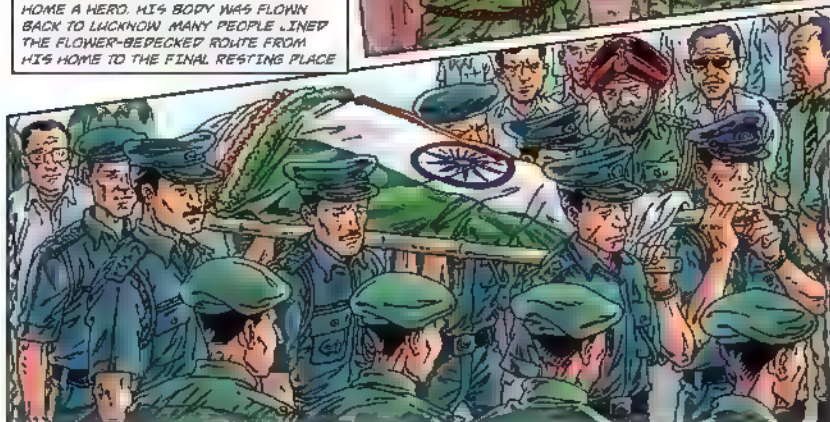
WE HAVE
DRIVEN THEM
AWAY, SIR!

MAD WITH GRIEF AND
ANGER AT SEEING THEIR
BELOVED COMRADE DYING,
CAPTAIN PANDEY'S MEN
WENT ON A RAMPAGE AND
DECIMATED THE ENEMY

THE TEAM CAME BACK TO REPORT THAT MANY HAD BEEN KILLED IN THE
ENEMY RANKS. SOME HAD RUN AWAY, LEAVING BEHIND A HUGE CACHE OF
ARMS AND AMMUNITION. FROM THE INDIAN SIDE, SIX SOLDIERS HAD
LOST THEIR LIVES ALONG WITH MANOJ PANDEY



CAPTAIN MANOJ PANDEY RETURNED
HOME A HERO. HIS BODY WAS FLOWN
BACK TO LUCKNOW. MANY PEOPLE LINED
THE FLOWER-BEDECKED ROUTE FROM
HIS HOME TO THE FINAL RESTING PLACE



*IN GORKHALI - "DON'T LEAVE THEM"

GRENADIER YOGENDRA SINGH YADAV

THE YEAR WAS 1996. 16-YEAR-OLD YOGENDRA SINGH YADAV HAD JUST JOINED THE 18 GRENADEIERS REGIMENT OF THE INDIAN ARMY.

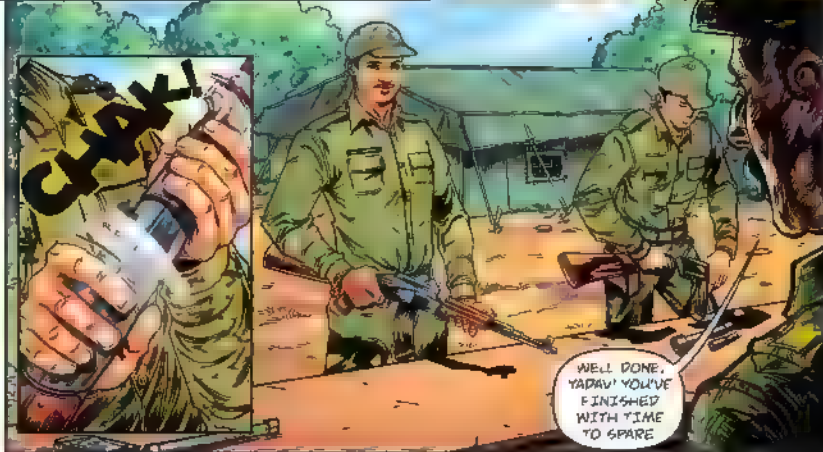
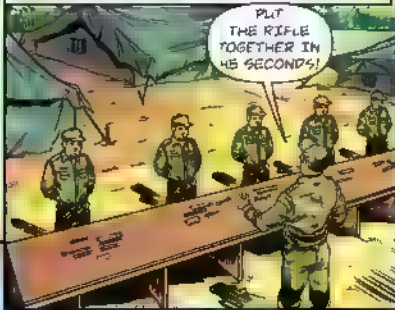


ONLY THE MOST PHYSICALLY FIT AND MOTIVATED SOLDIERS WERE SELECTED TO BE A PART OF THE GHATAKS.

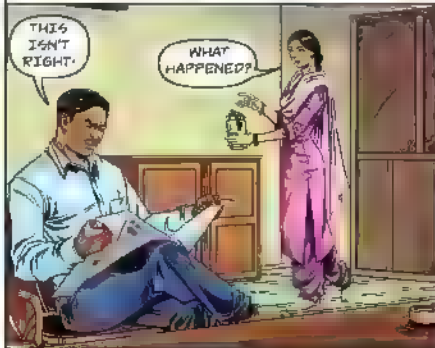


GHATAK COMMANDOS WERE TRAINED IN SURVIVAL TACTICS TO ENDURE THE MOST ADVERSE CONDITIONS.

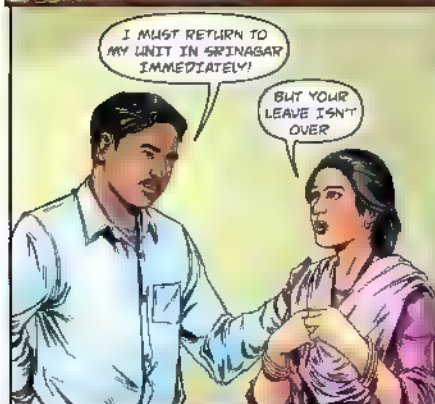
GRENADIER YOGENDRA CAME THROUGH THE TRAINING WITH AN OUTSTANDING REPORT, EXCELLING IN ALL THE TASKS ASSIGNED TO HIM.



THREE YEARS LATER, IN 1999 YOGENDRA GOT MARRIED HOWEVER, HIS JOY PROVED TO BE SHORT-LIVED, AS JUST A FEW DAYS AFTER THE WEDDING -



INDIA AND PAKISTAN HAD A PACT WHICH STATED THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD VACATE THE AREA DURING WINTERS TO AVOID THE HARSH WEATHER THE ARMY POSTS HAD BEEN EMPTY AS A RESULT.



YOGENDRA VOLUNTARILY CUT SHORT HIS LEAVE AND REJOINED HIS UNIT SOON AFTER THERE WAS SOME DISTURBING NEWS



YOGENDRA WAS RIGHT ONCE THE PAKISTANI ARMY'S INVOLVEMENT WAS CONFIRMED IN MAY 1999, A FULL-SCALE WAR BROKE OUT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.



A FEW WEEKS INTO THE FIGHTING, INDIA HAD SUCCESSFULLY CLEARED MOST OF THE POSTS OCCUPIED BY THE ENEMY FORCES. ONE BASE THAT WAS YET TO BE CAPTURED WAS TIGER HILL TOP IN KARGIL.



WE HAVE ALREADY RECLAIMED THE NORTH, SOUTH AND EAST FACES OF TIGER HILL. THE SHATAK PLATOON HAS BEEN CHOSEN TO LEAD THE ATTACK ON THE WESTERN FACE.

IT WAS A 16,500 FOOT VERTICAL CLIMB TO THE TOP.

WE WILL SCALE THE MOUNTAIN AT NIGHT AND SET UP AN M.M.S. BASE AT 16,000 FT. BEFORE PROCEEDING HIGHER.

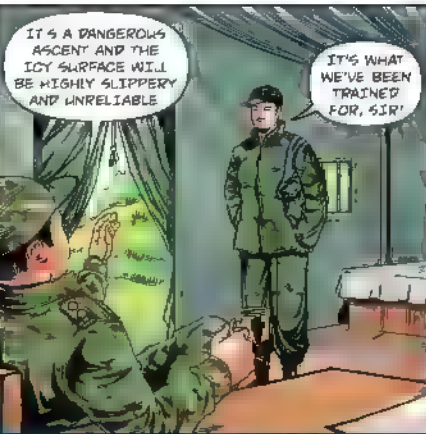


YOGENDRA WENT TO LIEUTENANT BALWAN AFTER THE BRIEFING



'ES
YADAV?

I WOULD
LIKE TO LEAD
THE CLIMB
SIR



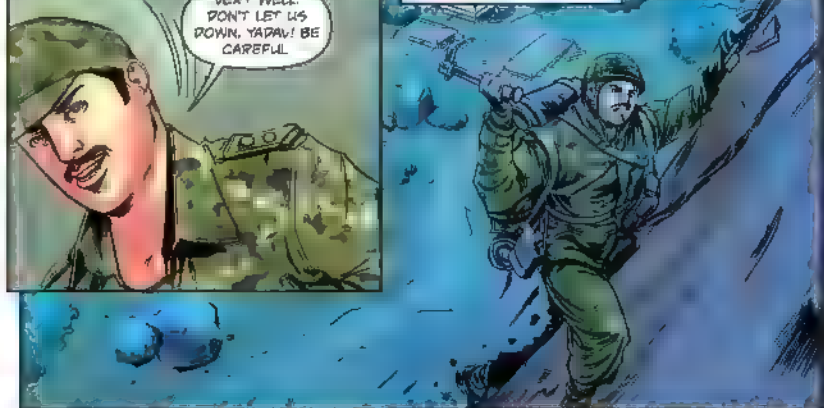
IT'S A DANGEROUS
ASCENT AND THE
ICY SURFACE WILL
BE HIGHLY SLIPPERY
AND UNRELIABLE

IT'S WHAT
WE'VE BEEN
TRAINED
FOR, SIR!



VERY WELL.
DON'T LET US
DOWN, YADAV! BE
CAREFUL

AND SO, UNMINDFUL OF THE RISK, YOGENDRA LED THE GHATAKS UP TIGER HILL BY CLIMBING FIRST AND TYING THE ANCHORING ROPES FOR THE REST OF THE TROOPS TO FOLLOW.



SLOWLY BUT STEADILY, THE PLATOON MADE ITS WAY TO THE FIRST TARGET OF 16,000FT THROUGH THE BITING COLD.



DAWN IS BREAKING.
WE WILL SET UP BASE
HERE AND CLIMB THE
REMAINING 500FT
AFTER SUNDOWN.

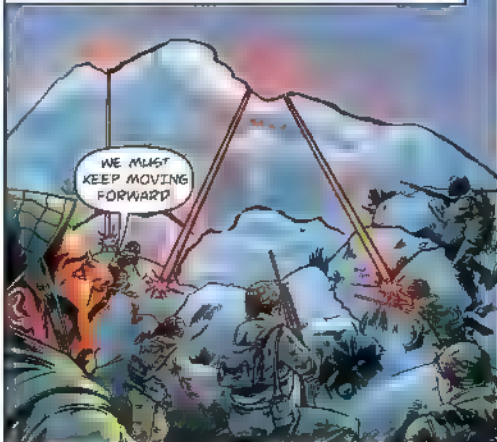
THAT NIGHT, ON JULY 3, 1999, THE GHATAKS LAUNCHED A FINAL SURGE TOWARDS THE SUMMIT! IN COMPLETE DARKNESS



BUT KEEPING A WATCH ON THE CONDITIONS AND THE ENEMY WAS NOT EASY AND THE PLATOON WAS SPOTTED BEFORE IT COULD REACH THE BUNKERS



ONLY SEVEN INDIAN COMMANDOS, INCLUDING YOGENDRA, MANAGED TO SCRAPE THROUGH THE FIRING. THE REST OF THE TROOPS REMAINED AT THE M.M.S. BASE BELOW



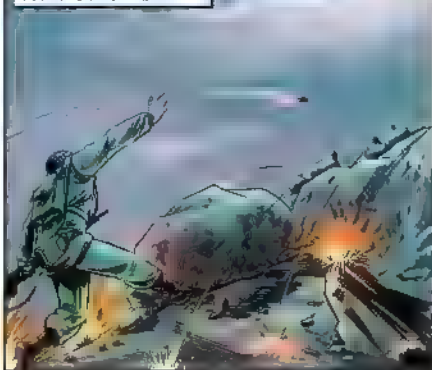
AND THEN -



YOGENDRA HAD SUSTAINED THREE BULLET WOUNDS IN HIS LEFT HAND DURING THE EXCHANGE OF FIRE HOWEVER -



ONCE THE FIRST ENEMY BUNKER WAS IN SIGHT, YOGENDRA KNEW HE COULD BOMB THEM



THE GRENADE FOUND ITS MARK



BUOYED BY THE CAPTURE OF THE FIRST POST, THE REMAINING GHATAKS PLOUGHED FORWARD, WITH YOGENDRA LAGGING A BIT BECAUSE OF HIS WOUNDS.



THERE'S ANOTHER BUNKER WHERE THOSE SHOTS ARE COMING FROM. MAKE YOUR WAY THERE!

AS YOGENDRA TRIED TO CATCH UP HE NOTICED SOMETHING STARTLING AHEAD.



OUR MEN ARE BEING FOLLOWED!

WITHOUT WASTING A MOMENT HE LOBBED A GRENADE AT THE PAKISTANI SOLDIERS STALKING HIS MATES.



BOOM!

HE HAD TAKEN OUT FOUR ENEMY SOLDIERS WITH THE BLAST, THUS HELPING SECURE A SECOND BUNKER.



THEY'RE REGROUPING AHEAD! BRACE YOURSELVES, MEN!



YOGENDRA, OUR M.G. HAS BEEN DAMAGED IN THE FIRING. BRING IT HERE SO WE CAN FIX IT.

YES, SIR.

DESPITE BEING WOUNDED AND HAVING NO COVER, YOGENDRA RAN TOWARDS THE L.M.S. WITHOUT HESITATION JUST THEN -



THE BLAST CAUGHT YOGENDRA BUT DID NOT DETER HIM



REALISING THAT THEY WERE GETTING CORNERED YOGENDRA RUSHED TO TAKE COVER IN A NEW POSITION. BUT -



THE SPLINTERS FROM THE GRENADE TORE INTO HIS LEGS. A SECOND BLAST SENT MORE TOWARDS HIS NOSE AND FACE



THE MAIN ENEMY BUNKER WAS JUST 50 METRES AWAY, BUT ONLY FIVE INDIAN COMMANDOS REMAINED STANDING.







THE COINS IN
MY WALLET MUST
HAVE DEFLECTED
THE BULLET TO
MY CHEST!

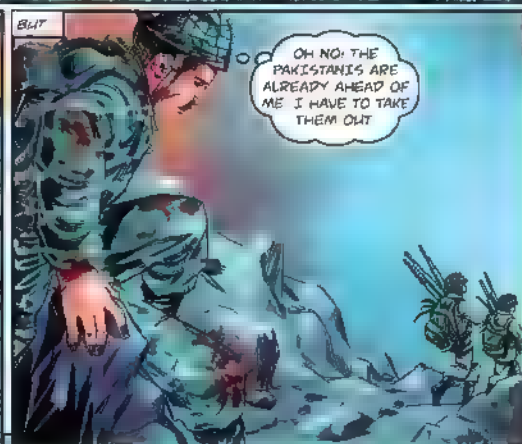


AS YOGENDRA
LOOKED AROUND -

NONE OF THEM
HAVE BEEN SPARED
BY THE PAKISTANIS
I MUST AVENGE
THEIR DEATHS!

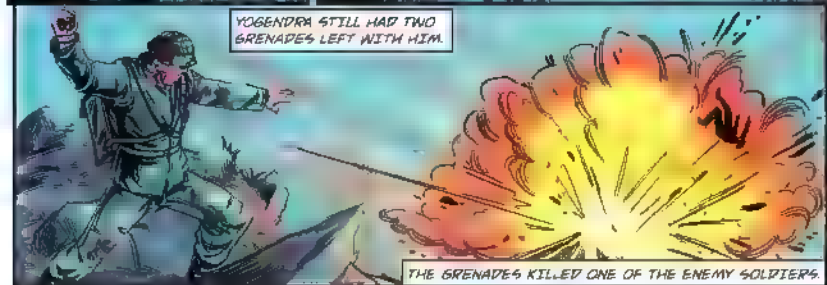


I MUST
REACH OUR
M.M.S. BASE
BELOW AND
WARN THEM!



BUT

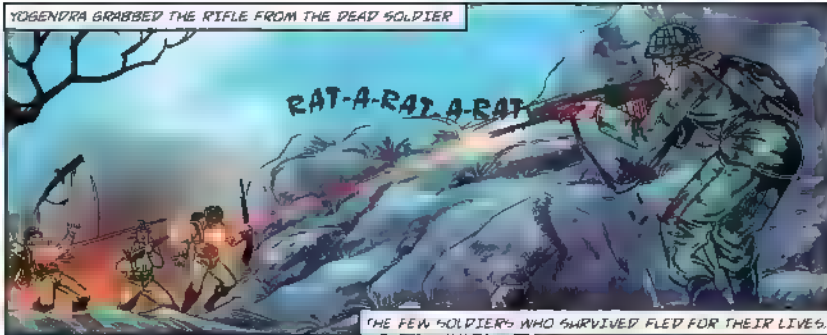
OH NO! THE
PAKISTANIS ARE
ALREADY AHEAD OF
ME I HAVE TO TAKE
THEM OUT



YOGENDRA STILL HAD TWO
GRENADES LEFT WITH HIM.

THE GRENADES KILLED ONE OF THE ENEMY SOLDIERS.

YOGENDRA GRABBED THE RIFLE FROM THE DEAD SOLDIER



RAT-A-RAT-A-RAT

THE FEW SOLDIERS WHO SURVIVED FLED FOR THEIR LIVES.



I MUST
MAKE MY WAY
DOWN TO THE
BASE NOW



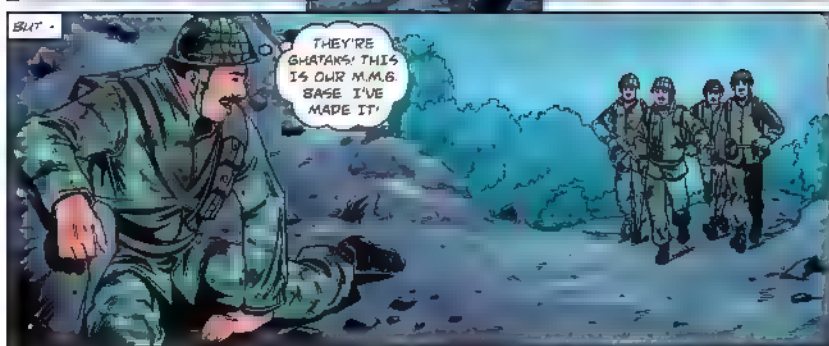
THE SLOPE WAS STEEP
AND ROCKY AND
YOGENDRA MISSED HIS
FOOTINGS QUITE OFTEN

AAAAH



FINALLY -

OH THOSE
SOLDIERS
THIS MUST BE A
PAKISTANI BASE
THERE IS NO
HOPE NOW



BUT -

THEY'RE
GHATAKS! THIS
IS OUR M.M.G.
BASE I'VE
MADE IT!

BRUISED, BATTERED AND INJURED WITH MULTIPLE BULLET WOUNDS, YOGENDRA WAS HELPED TO THE BUNKER BY HIS FELLOW SOLDIERS



WARNED IN TIME, THE INDIAN TROOPS SUCCESSFULLY REPELLED THE ENEMY.



...AND THE THREE-BUNKER TIGER HILL TOP WAS RECAPTURED BY THE INDIANS.



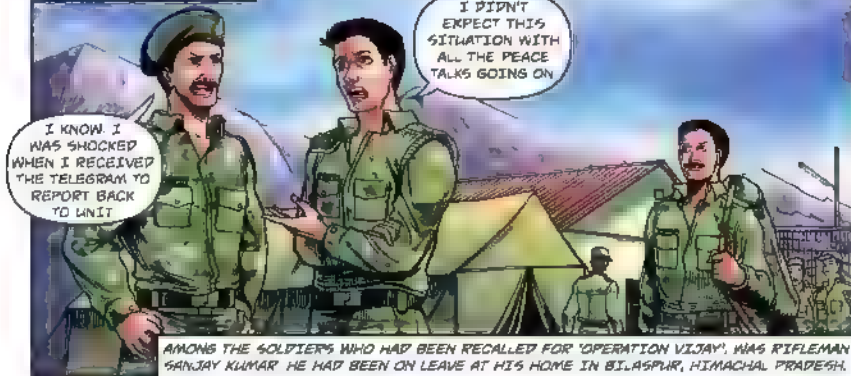
YOGENDRA SINGH YADAV WAS AWARDED THE PARAM VIR CHAKRA FOR HIS SUSTAINED DISPLAY OF BRAVERY, AT THE AGE OF 19



HE HAS BEEN SINCE PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF SUBEDAR

RIFLEMAN SANJAY KUMAR

JULY, 1999
KARGIL, JAMMU & KASHMIR
OPERATION VIJAY



RIF SANJAY WAS PART OF THE 13 J&K RIFLES. THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE BATTALION ADDRESSED HIS SOLDIERS.



SANJAY WAS QUIET AND SHY AND USUALLY STOOD AT THE BACK DURING BRIEFINGS



THE MISSION TO CAPTURE POINT 5140 WAS SUCCESSFUL. NOT ONLY DID THE ARMY RECAPTURE THE POINT, THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES ON THE INDIAN SIDE.



SOON AFTER THE CAPTURE OF POINT 5140, THE MEN OF 13 J&K RIFLES WERE TOLD TO TAKE CONTROL OF POINT 4875. TWO PARTIES WERE TO LEAD AND THE REST WERE TO BRING UP THE REAR DURING THE BRIEFING -



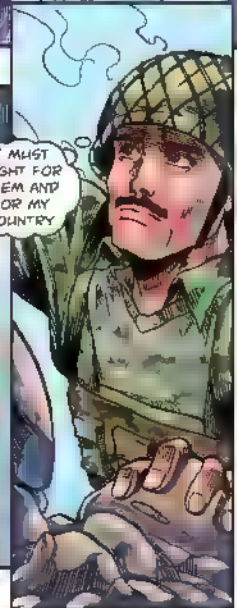
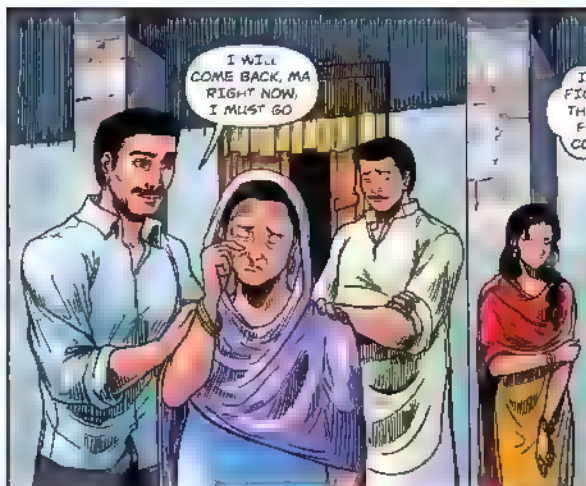
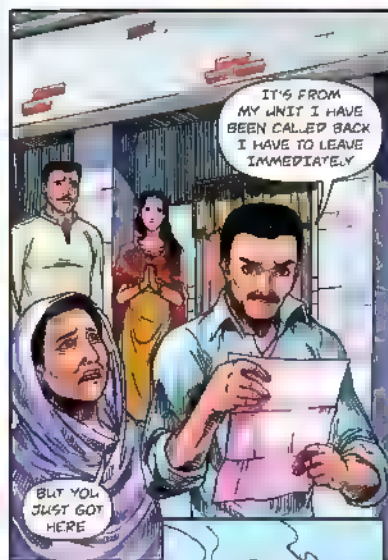
I WANT TO BE IN THE LEADING PARTY, SIR

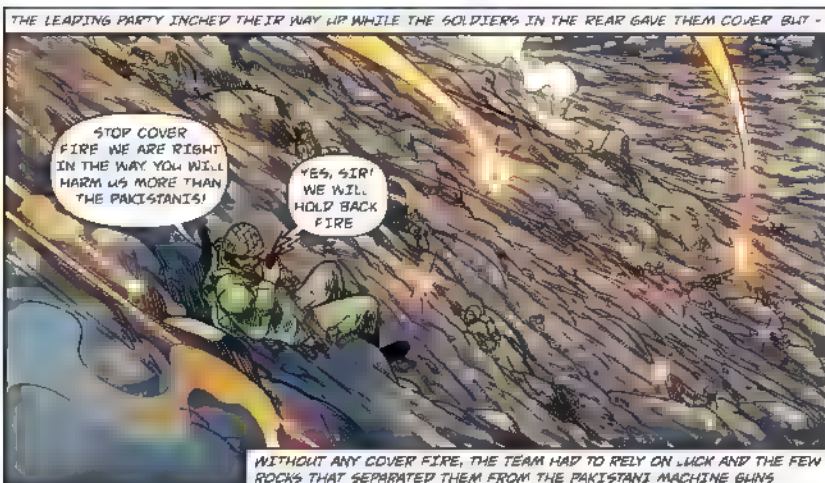
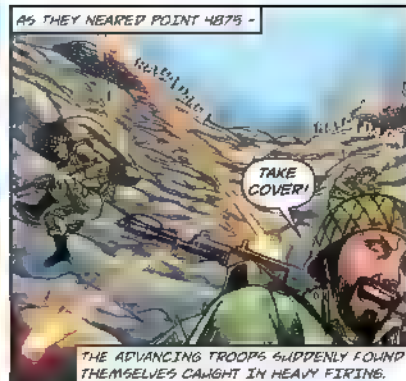
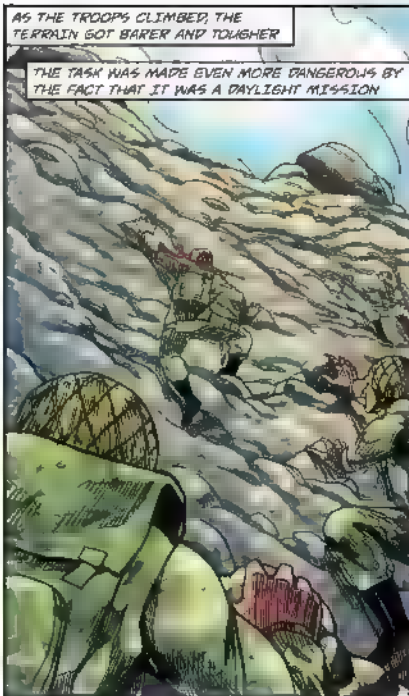
ON 4 JULY, 1999, THE LEADING PARTY WAS TASKED WITH CAPTURING A FLAT, ROCKY PART OF THE MOUNTAIN WHICH WOULD MAKE RECAPTURING POINT 4875 EASIER



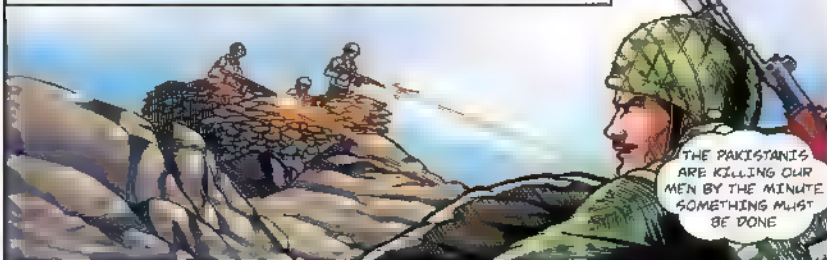
AS THE TROOPS CLIMBED SANJAY'S THOUGHTS DRIFTED TO THE DAY HE HAD TO LEAVE FOR THE WAR







THEY WERE JUST 200 METRES AWAY FROM THE PAKISTANI SANGAR*, WHEN -



SANJAY WHO WAS RIGHT IN FRONT, SLID PAST A ROCK AND CHARGED TOWARDS THE SANGAR



DESPITE BEING HIT, SANJAY JUMPED INTO THE PAKISTANI BUNKER AND -



*A MAKESHIFT BUNKER MADE WITH ROCKS OR SANDBAGS

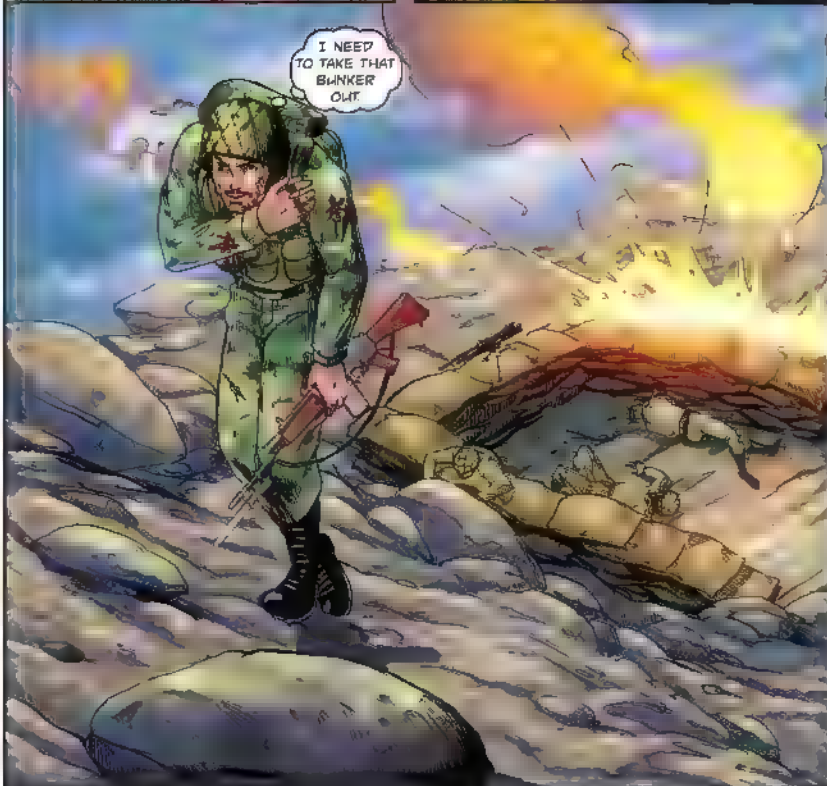


AND THIS
SHOULD TAKE
CARE OF YOU!



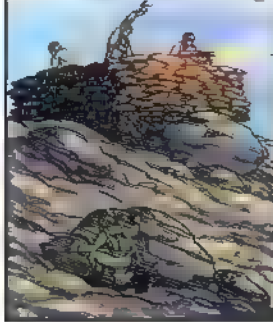
SANJAY CLEARED THE
FIRST BUNKER AND
LOOKED TO THE NEXT

THAT IS
WHERE MOST
OF THE FIRING
IS COMING
FROM

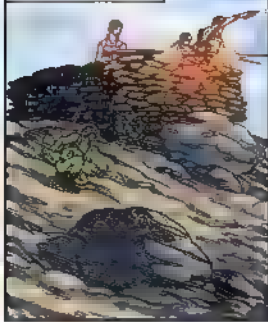


I NEED
TO TAKE THAT
BUNKER
OUT

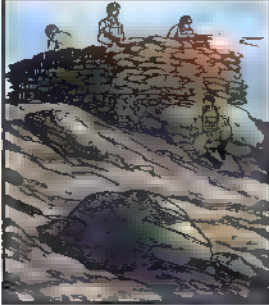
BLEEDING PROFUSELY FROM HIS WOUNDS.



SANJAY CREEPT UP TO THE BUNKER.



FROM WHERE THE PAKISTANIS WERE FIRING THEIR UNIVERSAL MACHINE GUN, INCESSANTLY



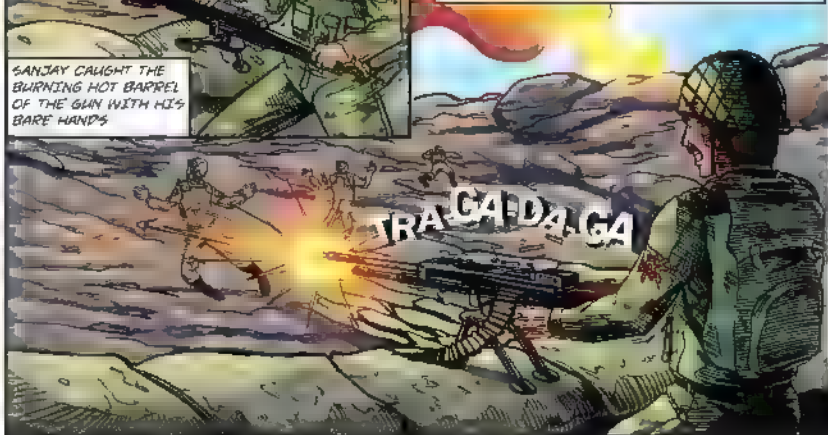
DURGA
MATA KI
JAI*!

SURPRISED
BY SANJAY'S
APPEARANCE,
THE PAKISTANIS
RAN LEAVING
BEHIND THEIR
MACHINE GUN.



SANJAY CAUGHT THE
BURNING HOT BARREL
OF THE GUN WITH HIS
BARE HANDS

...AND TURNING IT AROUND, FIRED AT THE ENEMY



TRA GA-DA-GA

*BATTLE CRY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR RIFLES

RIFLEMAN SANJAY'S ACT CHARGED UP HIS COMRADES.



THE INDIAN ARMY POURED FORWARD, THWARTING ANY ENEMY FORCE THAT CAME THEIR WAY.



MEANWHILE



THE ENEMY WAS BEATEN, AND THE FLAT TOP CAPTURED.



POINT 4875 HAD BEEN OCCUPIED SANJAY'S
ACT HAD MADE IT EASIER FOR THE INDIAN
TROOPS TO MOVE FORWARD



WHEN THE RESCUE AND MEDICAL
TEAM ARRIVED AT THE SPOT -



THERE
ARE VERY FEW
SURVIVORS

WE NEED TO
EVACUATE ALL
THE INJURED
SOLDIERS
FIRST



SIR! THIS
MAN IS STILL
BREATHING

THE SOLDIER WAS SANJAY
HE HAD LOST A LOT OF
BLOOD AND WAS CRITICALLY
INJURED, BUT HE WAS ALIVE



GET HIM
TO THE BASE
IMMEDIATELY

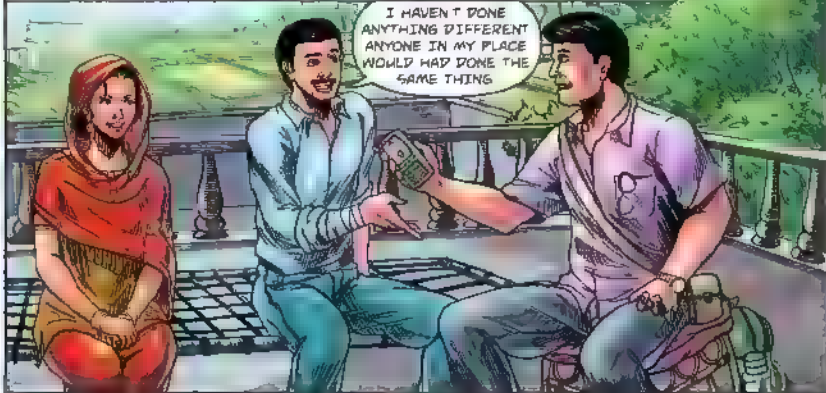
A MEDICAL TEAM WORKED TIRELESSLY ON SANJAY AND SAVED HIS LIFE



WHEN HE WENT HOME...

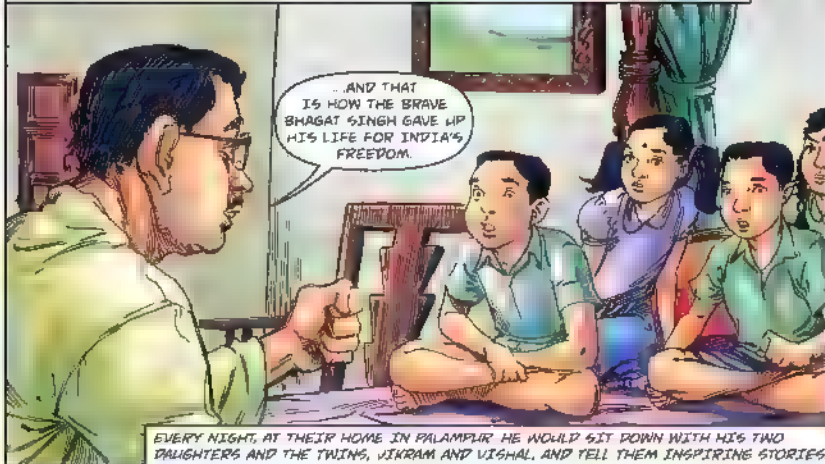


SANJAY KUMAR WAS AWARDED THE PARAM VIR CHAKRA FOR HIS EXEMPLARY COURAGE IN BATTLE WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT, THE HERO HAD ONLY ONE THING TO SAY -



CAPTAIN VIKRAM BATRA

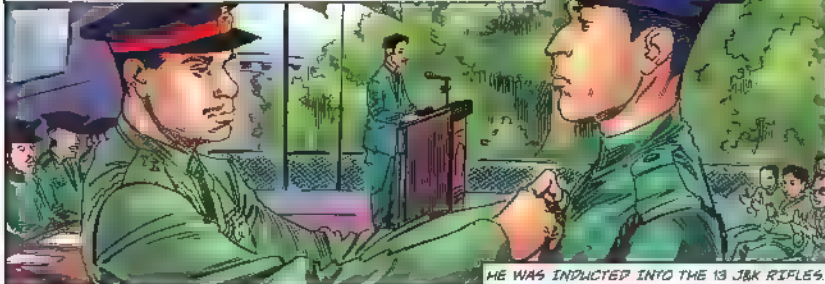
SIRDHARI LAL BATRA WAS TELLING HIS CHILDREN THE STORY OF INDIA'S FREEDOM STRUGGLE

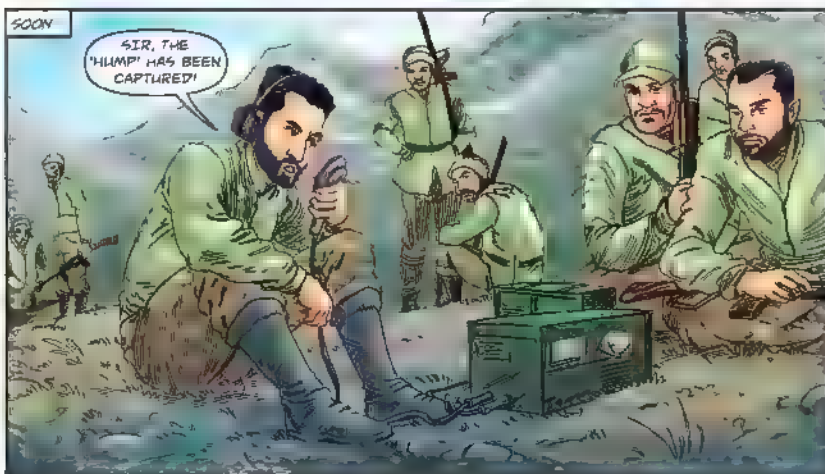
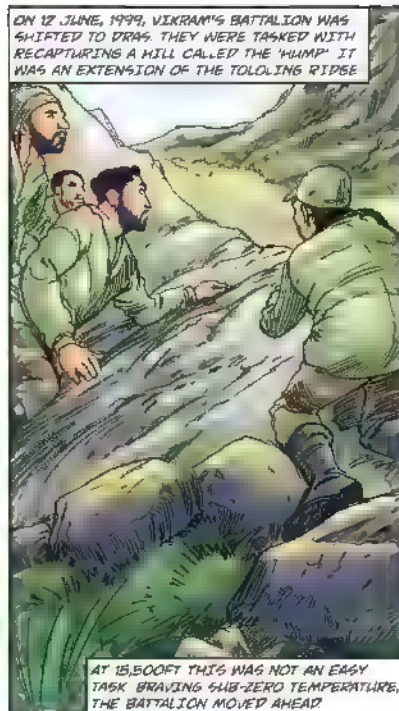


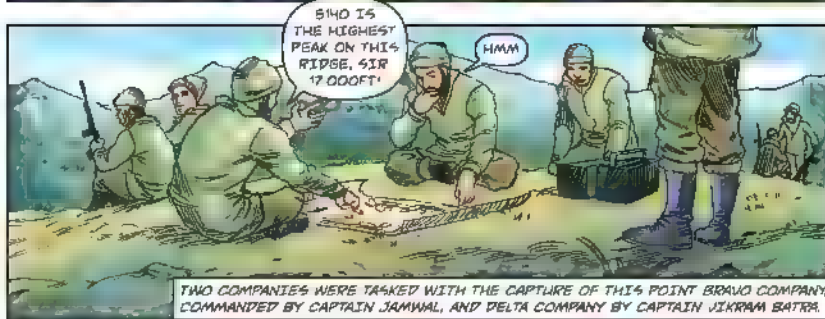
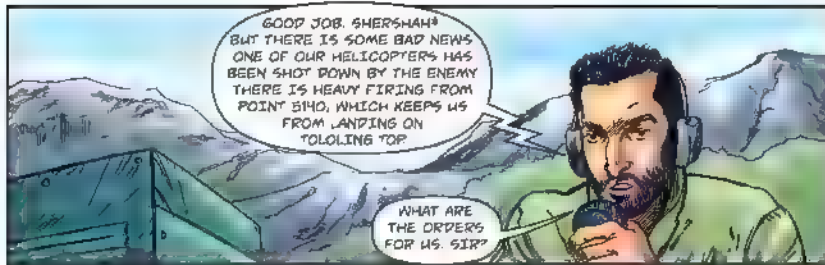
THE CHILDREN, PARTICULARLY VIKRAM, GREW UP WITH A STRONG SENSE OF PRIDE IN THEIR COUNTRY. WHEN VIKRAM GOT ACCEPTED IN THE MERCHANT NAVY



THE FAMILY AGREED OF COURSE AND IN 1997, VIKRAM BATRA PASSED OUT OF THE INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY AS AN ARMY OFFICER

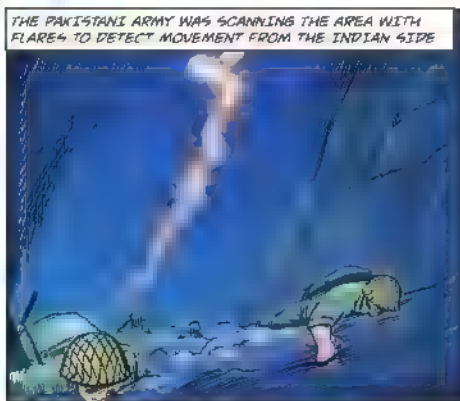
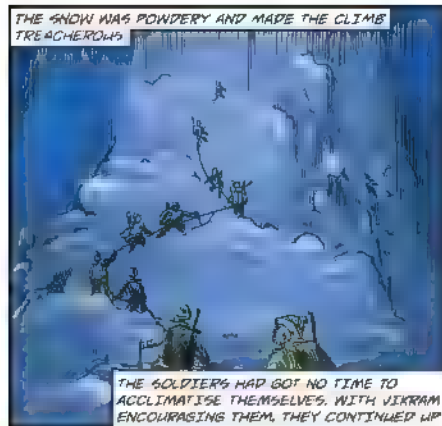




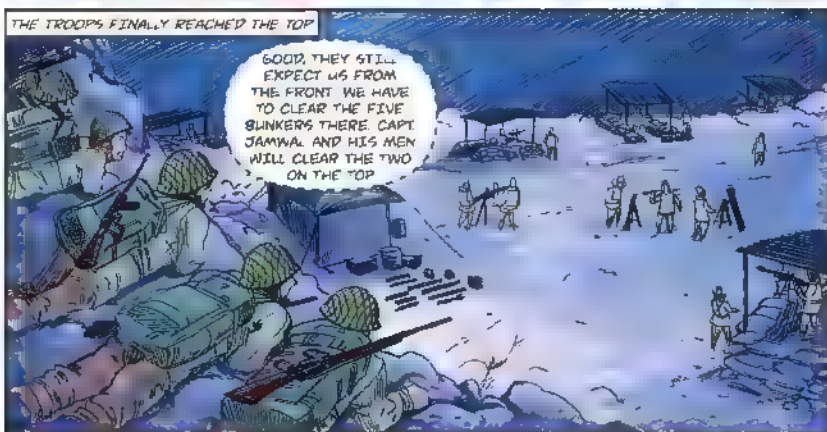
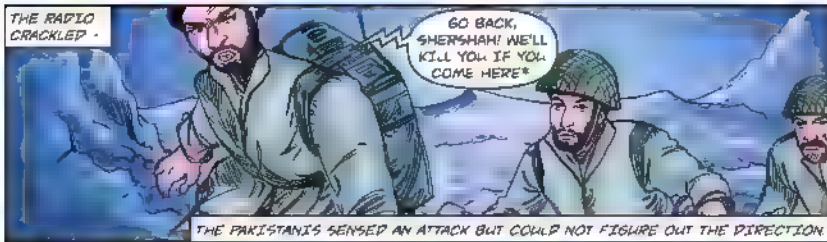
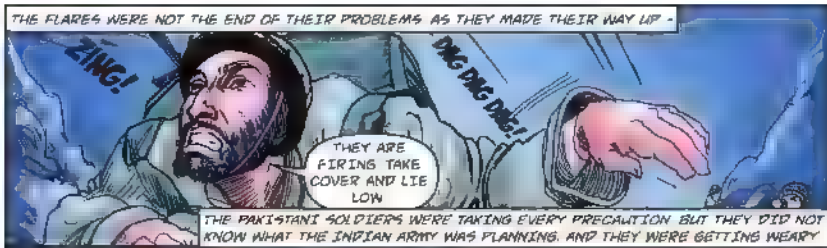


*DURING WARTIME, SOLDIERS WERE GIVEN CODE NAMES. SHERSHAH, MEANING 'LION KING' WAS VIKRAM BATRA'S CODE NAME.

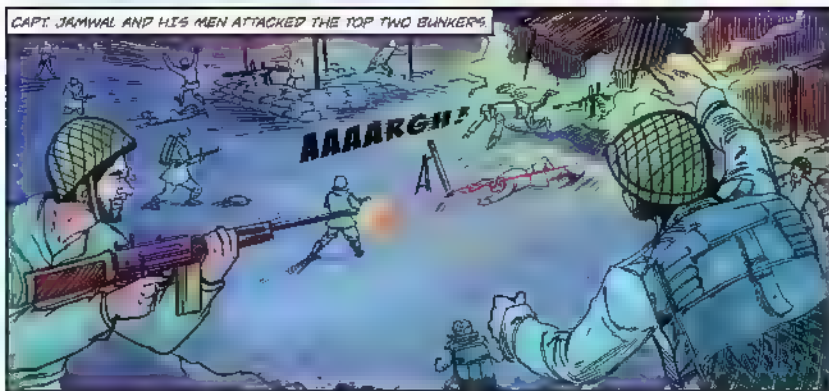




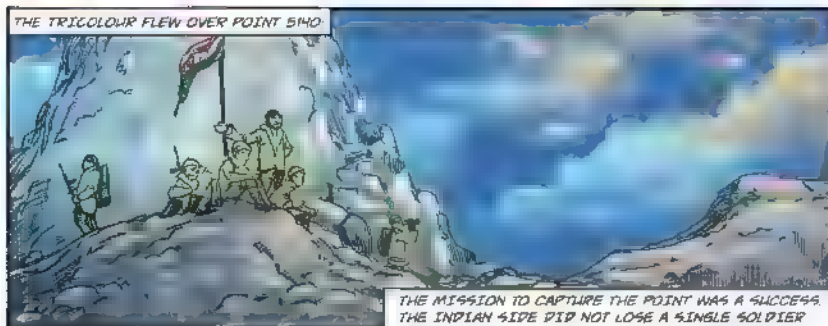
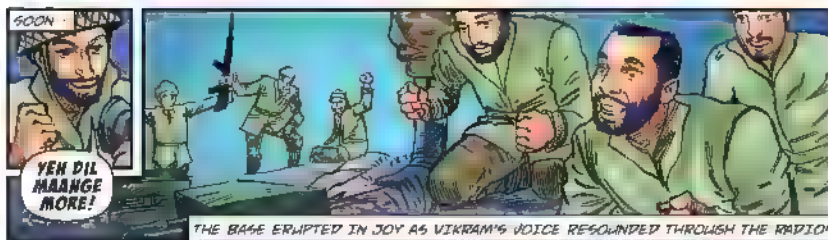
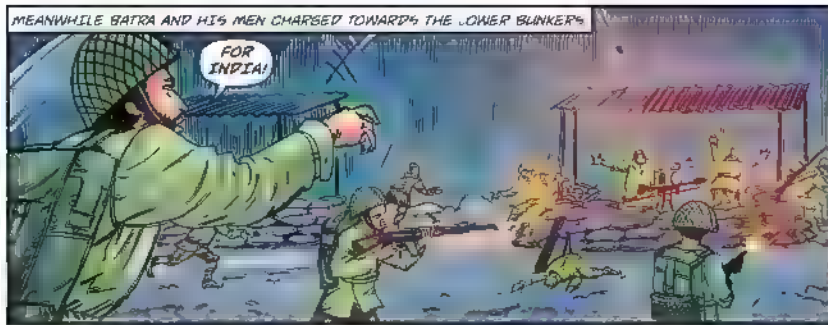
*LOW ON OXYGEN



*IT WAS NORMAL FOR THE ENEMY TO INTERCEPT RADIO COMMUNICATIONS.



WAS HEARD AT THE BASE

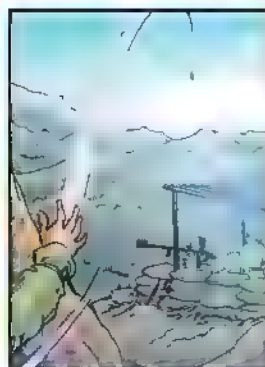


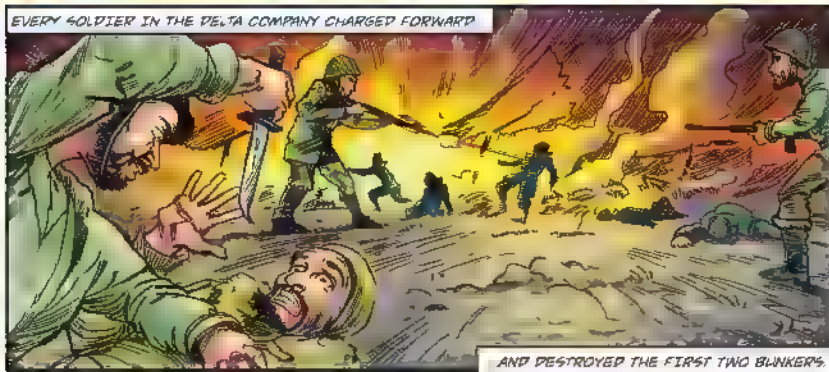


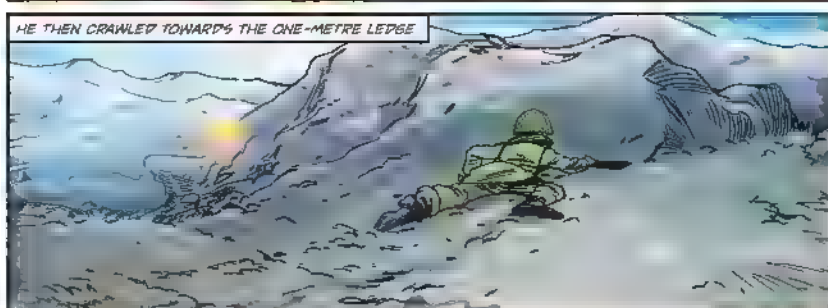
ON 4 JULY, 1999, DELTA COMPANY BEGAN ANOTHER CLIMB. THOUGH VIKRAM WAS RUNNING A FEVER, HE INSISTED ON GOING WITH HIS MEN.

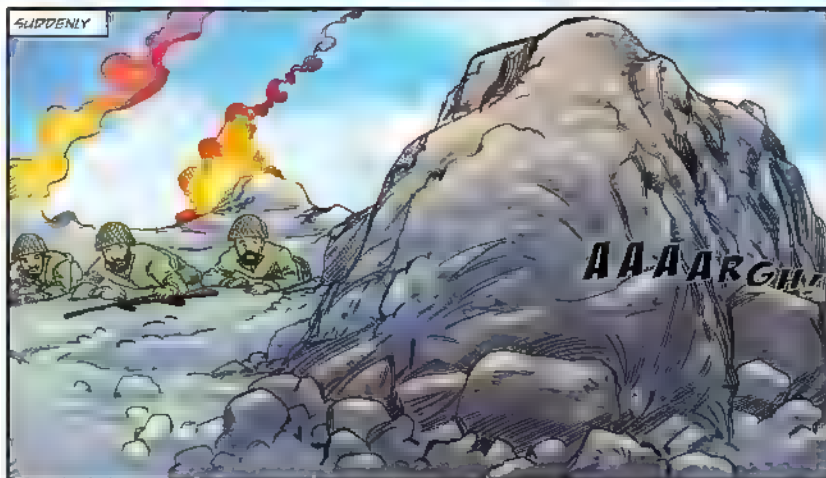


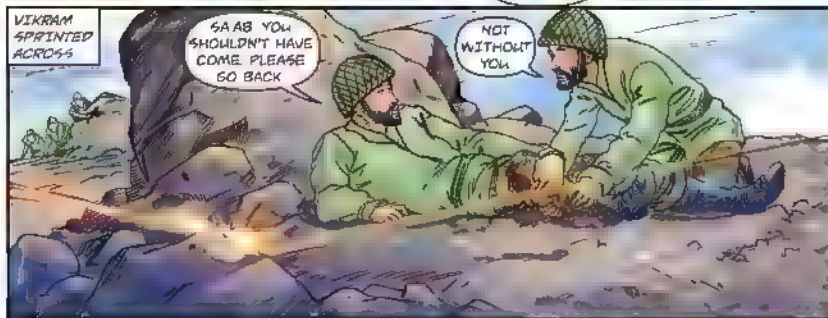
ON THE MORNING OF 7 JULY -









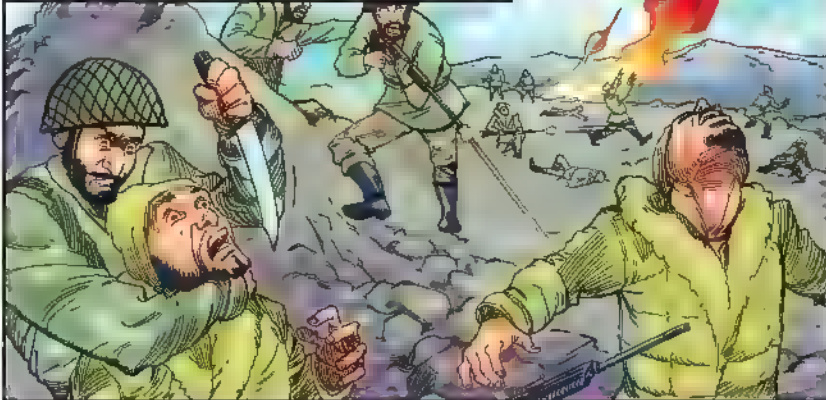


EVERYONE WATCHED IN HORROR AS CAPT VINRAM BATRA FELL TO THE GROUND

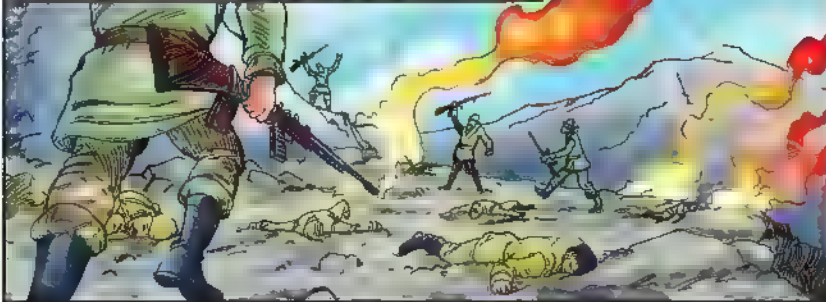


THEY COULD NOT BELIEVE THAT THEIR BELOVED SHERGAH WAS DEAD

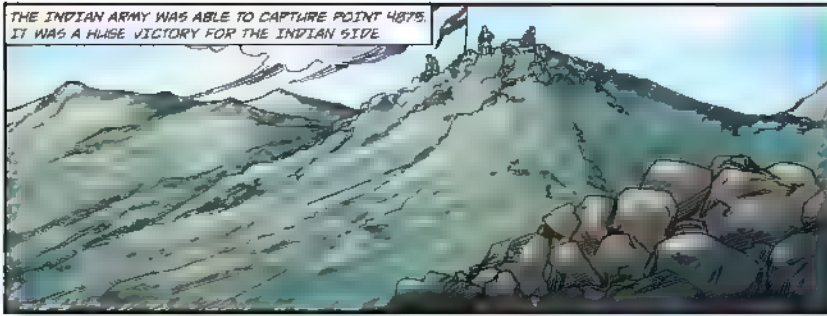
THE ENTIRE GROUP OF SOLDIERS CHARGED FORWARD IN ANGER



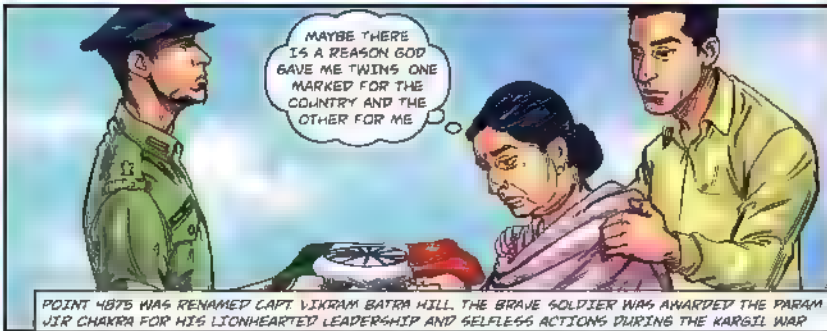
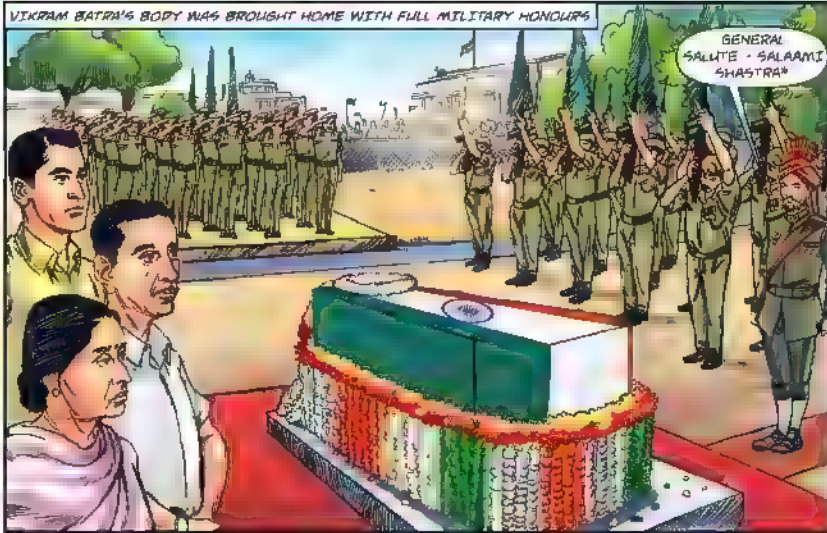
THE ENEMY FLED IN TERROR THE ENTIRE CLIFF HAD BEEN CLEARED



THE INDIAN ARMY WAS ABLE TO CAPTURE POINT 4875. IT WAS A HUGE VICTORY FOR THE INDIAN SIDE.



VIKRAM BATRA'S BODY WAS BROUGHT HOME WITH FULL MILITARY HONOURS

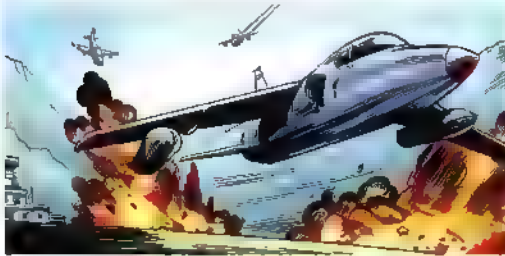


POINT 4875 WAS RENAMED CAPT VIKRAM BATRA HILL. THE BRAVE SOLDIER WAS AWARDED THE PARAM VIR CHAKRA FOR HIS LIONHEARTED LEADERSHIP AND SELFLESS ACTIONS DURING THE KARGIL WAR.

*AS A MARK OF RESPECT TO THE MARTYR, SOLDIERS GIVE AN ARMED SALLITE WITH THEIR RIFLES UPRIGHT, FACING FRONT THIS IS FOLLOWED BY A 21 GUN SALLITE BY A FIRING PARTY.

Weapons and Vehicles

Gnat: The Fox and Gnat was the last plane made by British aircraft designer W.E.W. Petter. This subsonic light fighter aircraft, which was also used as a jet trainer, was characterised by its small size, angled wings and simple design. It carried a crew of one pilot, two 30mm ADEN cannons, two bombs and 18 three-inch rockets. It had a range of 800km and a maximum speed of 1120kmph at 20,000ft.



The Gnat was inducted into the Indian Air Force in 1958, and was widely used. Later, the IAF began to manufacture it under license. Eventually, the design was improved and the modifications resulted in HAL Ajeet.

Bren Guns/Light Machine Guns: Automatic handheld guns that are designed to be fired by a single soldier without assistance. They typically use smaller caliber cartridges, but have heavier barrels than rifles.

Medium Machine Guns: An automatic firearm that uses cartridges fed by an ammunition belt. They are designed to be fired from a stationary position. It is portable, but typically needs more than one person to carry.

Rifles with bayonets: Firearms that shoot bullets with great precision because of the grooves cut in the inner surface of the barrel. Bayonets are dagger-like weapons that can be attached to the muzzle of a rifle to be used in hand-to-hand combat.

Recoilless Guns: Lightweight tube artillery that, at the moment of ignition, expels a large amount of the propellant gases that creates a forward push to counter the gun's backward momentum when fired. This way, the gun can launch a powerful projectile, without getting the heavy recoil of a cannon.



Rocket Launcher: Artillery device used to launch a projectile propelled by a rocket. There are smaller ones that can be carried on the shoulder while larger ones can be mounted on jeeps.

Khukri: A specialised knife with a curved broad blade. The khukri is the characteristic weapon of the Gorkha regiments.

Spitfires: British single-seater fighter aircraft that the Indian Air Force began using in October 1944. These are short-range and high performance aircraft that were designed, and commonly used to prevent bombers and enemy recon aircraft from completing their missions.

Anti-tank jeeps: Jeeps that come equipped with weapon systems designed to hit and destroy heavily armoured vehicles, especially tanks.

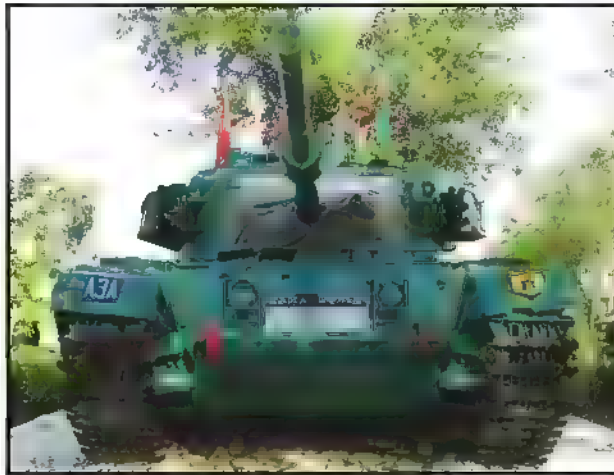
Armoured cars: Combat vehicles that are protected by strong armour and bulletproof glass, enabling them to withstand shrapnel, bullets or shells from enemy fire. These vehicles are heavily equipped with weapons, making them both offensive and defensive mobile units used to carry troops into battle.

Surface to Air missiles: Missiles launched from the ground, designed to take down aircraft.

Mine detectors: A handheld device used for locating buried or concealed anti-tank mines. They typically work by identifying the presence of metal in the ground.

Centurion tanks: Developed and manufactured in Great Britain, Centurion tanks began being used in 1945. They were heavily armed main battle tanks that weighed 51,820kg. One tank could carry a crew of four, and moved at a speed of 34kmph.

Centurion tanks were used in India during the 1965 war with Pakistan. All the tanks were assigned names, by which they were referred to during the war. Second Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal's tank was a Centurion tank named Famagusta.



Second Lieutenant Arun Khetarpal's tank, Famagusta, restored and kept in display by the Indian Army.

In Times of Peace

What do the Armed Forces do in peace time? Is there a role for them when there is no war?

The primary role of the Armed Forces is to defend the nation against external aggression. Success in war comes to those who are well equipped and trained. The Armed Forces, therefore, constantly train themselves so that they are better prepared than the adversary for any eventuality.

India has very long borders which mostly do not follow geographic features. Most of our borders are active and conflict prone due to difference in perception with our neighbours. In order to guard these active borders, especially in mountainous and inhospitable terrain, the Army remains deployed to thwart recurring encroachment attempts and to battle relentless ceasefire violations. The Air Force and the Navy remain in a state of readiness to respond to any impending air or sea threats to our country.

Armed Forces units and formations, stationed in peace locations, follow a rigorous training routine which include physical and weapon training, arms/equipment repair and maintenance tasks, in order to remain operationally ready. Regular two-sided exercises and war games in which various defensive and offensive scenarios are enacted, are undertaken to validate and update operational plans and battle procedures. Logistic planning and preparation for operations and contingencies are also undertaken.

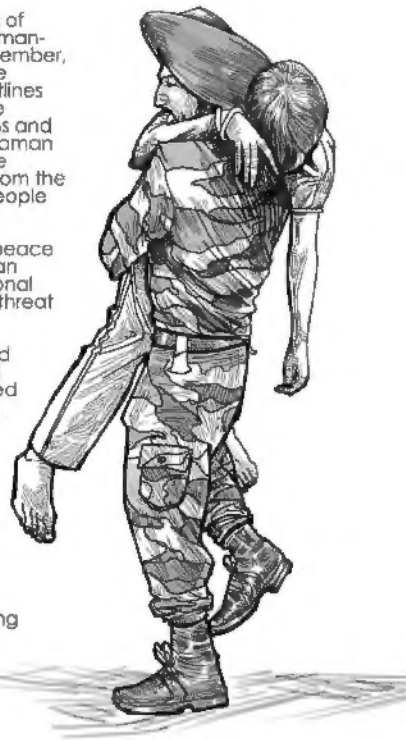
The Armed Forces are called upon to assist in times of internal disorders and calamities both natural and man-made such as floods, earthquakes etc. On 26 December, 2004, when a devastating tsunami swept across the Indian Ocean submerging islands, destroying coastlines and taking thousands of lives, the Air Force and the Navy swung into action carrying out rescue missions and transporting medical and food supplies to the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. More recently the floods in Jammu & Kashmir saw men from the Armed Forces deployed in rescuing hundreds of people from the fury of the rising water.

The Armed Forces are also called upon to restore peace and order during internal strife and unrest. The Indian Navy by patrolling the waters, guards the international shipping corridors in the Indian Ocean against the threat of piracy and terrorism.

Apart from securing the nation against external and internal threats, the Indian Army has been involved in nation building initiatives too through multifaceted activities such as laying bridges, providing medical facilities, running educational and vocational training, etc., for common people especially in inaccessible areas of J&K and the north-eastern states.

When mandated, the Armed Forces also participate in conflict prevention in neighbouring countries as during Operation Pawan in Sri Lanka (1987) and Operation Cactus in the Maldives (1988).

The Armed Forces also participate in peace-keeping missions of the United Nations under the UN Flag.



PVC Awardees



Major Summrath Sharma
1922-1947
Indo Pak War (1947-48)



Lance Naik Karam Singh
1815-1973
Indo Pak War (1947-48)



Second Lieutenant Ramesh Babha Rame
1918-1994
Indo Pak War (1947-48)



Naik Yadunath Singh
1918-1948
Indo Pak War (1947-48)



Company Havildar Major Ptu Singh Shekhawat
1918-1944
Indo Pak War (1947-48)



Captain Gurbachan Singh Jethwa
1935-1961
Congo Crs (1962-64)



Major Dhan Singh Thapa
1928-2005
Sino Indian War (1962)



Subedar Jaginder Singh
1923-1982
Sino Indian War (1962)



Major Shailan Singh
1924-1982
Sino Indian War (1962)



Company Quartermaster Havildar Abdul Hamid
1933-1965
Indo Pak War (1947-48)



Lieutenant Colonel Ardeash Buzarji Tarapore
1925-1963
Indo Pak War (1947-48)



Lance Naik Albert Bha
1940-1971
Bangladesh Liberation War (1971)



Flying Officer Nandaji Singh Solanki
1948-1971
Bangladesh Liberation War (1971)



Second Lieutenant Arun Khelapal
1950-1971
Bangladesh Liberation War (1971)



Major Hoshkar Singh
1927-1978
Bangladesh Liberation War (1971)



Naik Subedar Iqbal Singh
Born 1947
Sri Lanka Conflict



Major Ramdaswamy Paramaswaran
1948-1967
Operation Bawan (1967)



Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey
1979-1997
Kargil War (1997)



Grenadier Yogendra Singh Yadav
Born 1980
Kargil War (1997)



Rifleman Sanjay Kumar
Born 1982
Kargil War (1997)



Captain Vikram Bato
1972-1999
Kargil War (1997)

WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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Andhaka
Anurudha
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Ayyappa
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Bhanumati
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Bheeshma
Chandrasekha
Chandrasekha
Dasharatha
Dhruva And Ashwakra
Draupadi
Drona
Elephanta
Gandhari
Ganesha
Ganesha And The Moon
Garuda
Ganga
Ghatotkacha
Hanuman
Hanuman To The Rescue
Hanuman
Heroes Of Hampi
Indra And Shachi
Indra And Shibi
Indra And Virata
Jagannatha Of Puri
Jardine
Kacha And Devyani
Karna
Kartilyaya
Konark
Krishna
Krishna And Jarasandha
Krishna And Narakaasura
Krishna And Rukmini
Krishna And Shishupala
Krishna And The False
Vaasudeva
Kubera
Kumbhakarna
Mahabharata
Maharavana
Nachiketa
Nahusha
Nela Damayanti
Nirvachita
Parasurama
Prabhavati
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Purushottam Dev And
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The Golden Mongoose
The King In
A Parrot's Body
The Lord Of Lanka
The Pandava Princes
The Pandavas In Hiding
The Parijata Tree
The Sons Of Rama
The Symantaka Gem
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nation builders

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 Ekroth
 Fa Hien
 Ghanshyamdas Sita
 Guru Arjan
 Guru Gobind Singh
 Guru Har Gobind
 Guru Nanak
 Guru Tegh Bahadur
 Huen Tsang
 J.R.D. Tata
 Jagad Chandra Bose
 Jamniji Tata
 Jeyashakti Nehru
 Jeyaprakash Narayan
 Jim Corbett
 Jinteesingh
 Kabir
 Kalidasa
 Lal Bahadur Shastri
 Lokmanya Tilak
 M. S. Subbulakshmi
 Medhacharya
 Mirabai
 Marie And Pierre Curie
 Megasthenes
 Mirabai
 Mother Teresa
 Narayan Guru
 Rabindranath Tagore
 Ram Shastri
 Ramana Maharshi
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How Friends Are Part

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The Dwarf
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How The Jackal Ate

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The Brahmin And
The Goat
The Dullard
The Greedy Mother-
in-law
The Jackal And
The Wardrum
Remains To Be Told
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Shrenik
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Of Ajai Datta
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Bardui And Chihlu
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The Golden Sand
The Green Demon
The Unhappy Tiger
The Learned Pandit
The Lost Prince
The Magic Grove
The Miraculous Conch
The Mystery Of
The Missing Gift
The Muslim And
The Milkmaid
The Pig And The Dog
The Pious Cat
The Priceless Gem
The Prince And
The Megician
The Prophecy
The Queen's Necklaces
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 Balban
 Banda Bahadur
 Bappa Rawal
 Beni Madho And Pir Ali
 Bhagat Singh
 Bidhi Chand
 Bimbisara
 Chand Bibi
 Chandra Shekhar Azad
 Chandragupta Maurya
 Chennamma Of Keladi
 Dara Shukho And
 Aurangzeb

Kirgizistan
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 Harsha
 Hemu
 Humayun
 Jahangir
 Jallianwalla Bagh
 Kalpana Chawla
 Nohochini
 Krishnadeva Raya
 Kunwar Singh
 Lachit Barphukan
 Lalitaditya
 Mangal Pandey
 Noor Jahan
 Padmini
 Panna And Hadri Rani
 Purnava And Alexander
 Prithviraj Chauhan
 Raja Bhoja
 Raja Raja Chola
 Rana Pratap
 Rana Premab
 Rana Sanga
 Rani Abbekka
 Rani Durgavati
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